MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Khaldah Talks -- The Lebanese delegation opened the 10 January talks at Khaldah by announcing that Lebanon rejects the U.S. proposal for an agreed agenda, Jerusalem radio reported. The Lebanese statement relieved Israel of the need to raise its own proposed amendments to the U.S. formula, the radio noted. After hearing the Lebanese rejection, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper introduced new suggestions, which were then debated, the radio added.

Earlier, a communique issued by the Lebanese delegation at the start of the talks and broadcast by Beirut radio expressed optimism that progress would be made at Khaldah now that Israel has shown flexibility over normalization as a result of U.S. pressure.

Other Diplomatic Activity -- The course of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations was among the subjects discussed at an 8 January meeting in Damascus between Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Beirut radio reported.

In another development President Amin al-Jumayyil met with Deputy UN Secretary General for Political Affairs Brian Urquhart and requested a 6-month extension for the UNIFIL mandate, Beirut radio noted.

Tripoli Situation -- Lebanon and Syria have agreed to entrust the implementation of a cease-fire in Tripoli to the Lebanese internal security forces, according to a Beirut radio report on the outcome of the 8 January talks in Damascus between Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Syrian President al-Asad. Confirming this agreement, Damascus radio said Al-Asad told Al-Wazzan that Syria is willing to provide all possible help, including intervention by the Arab Deterrent Forces "if necessary." Reports by both Radio Monte Carlo and the Voice of Lebanon disclosed that if the attempt to secure the Lebanese Government's control over the city fails, the Syrian Army will be ordered to impose a military solution. Meanwhile, Beirut radio reported that after a meeting between former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and representatives of anti-Syrian factions in Tripoli, a spokesman for the latter announced that agreement had been reached to consolidate the cease-fire; to withdraw all gunmen from the city, "particularly the aliens," as well as heavy weapons; to entrust security in Tripoli to the Lebanese Government; and to work for the restoration of national sovereignty in the city.

The director general of Lebanon's internal security forces subsequently arrived in Tripoli to implement the security measures agreed on by Al-Asad and Al-Wazzan and to meet with local leaders, including those opposed to the Syrians, Beirut radio noted. Before returning to Beirut, the director general said in remarks broadcast by the radio that Lebanese security forces would deploy in the area of the clashes on 10 January and that the Syrians had shown full understanding regarding the need to withdraw heavy weapons and armed men.

Lebanese security men began to enter the contested areas of the city amid an atmosphere of quiet, Beirut radio reported on the evening of 9 January. Intermittent clashes had erupted in the city earlier in the weekend, according to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios.

Military, Security Situation Elsewhere -- Twenty-one IDF soldiers were wounded in a 7 January ambush in a southern suburb of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF killed two of the attackers, the radio said. According to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, the attack was mounted by Lebanese nationalist resistance fighters.

In a further report on IDF and Syrian reinforcements in Al-Biqa' valley AFP said more Merkhava and T-72 tanks have been seen deploying near the cease-fire line. However, Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported that Syrian military vehicles were seen withdrawing from Al-Biqa' into Syria on 10 January.

Clashes resumed in the Ash-Shuf mountain area over the weekend, ending the recent period of calm, according to the Voice of Lebanon and other local radios.

Iraqi Diplomacy in France

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met in Paris with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, INA reported on 7 January. After the 90-minute meeting Ghali disclosed that 'Aziz had given him a letter from President Saddam Husayn for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which Husayn expressed Iraq's gratitude for Egypt's support, according to MENA. Asserting that the contacts and relations between Iraq and Egypt now make traditional diplomacy "insignificant," Ghali described his talks with 'Aziz as extremely positive and said they had agreed to continue Iraqi-Egyptian consultations. Earlier, 'Aziz told LE MONDE that he favors Egypt's "unconditional reintegration" into the Arab League and that Iraq would not oppose Middle East peace negotiations involving Israel, the PLO and Arab states, AFP reported. The meeting between 'Aziz and Ghali is the first high-level Iraqi-Egyptian meeting since 1979, AFP noted.

Before his meeting with Ghali, Tariq 'Aziz revealed that the subject of the sale of French Mirage-2000 aircraft to Iraq was discussed during his talks with French officials. Speaking in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, 'Aziz described Iraqi-French relations as "truly special" and "bigger" than Iraq's relations with any other state. Asked about the economy and oil exports, 'Aziz disclosed that Iraq is now thinking of another area through which to export its oil, "an area neither in Syria nor the Gulf."

During his stay in France, 'Aziz also met with Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi, INA reported. According to a joint statement issued by 'Aziz and Rajavi and reported by INA, the Mojahedin leader accepted in principle 'Aziz's invitation to visit Iraq. Rajavi also said a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war could be achieved by overthrowing the current Iranian regime and replacing it with a democratic substitute. We accused Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni of using the war to conceal the resistance to his rule and to satisfy his expansionist ambitions. According to AFP, 'Aziz announced that Iraq would be happy to see Rajavi become the next Iranian leader.

Iran

Algiers Accord -- Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the governor of the Central Bank and other government officials made "important decisions" on 9 January concerning the Algiers accord and ways to expedite the securing of the Iranian people's claims and rights, IRNA reported.

Counterrevolutionaries Arrested -- More than 100 people were either killed or arrested during two recent government operations against the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization and other groups which have "waged war against God," according to Tehran radio reports broadcast on 8 and 9 January. The Mojahedin-e Khalq is now comprised of sympathizers and lower-echelon members because the high-ranking members saw that the organization was in danger of being destroyed and sought refuge with their "well-known masters," including France, the radio claimed.

PLO

'Arafat Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held talks with Jordanian King Husayn on 9 January after arriving in Amman from Damascus the previous day, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Their talks covered moves to achieve a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian problem, Amman radio said. According to Radio Monte Carlo, 'Arafat will fly to Moscow on 11 January for talks with CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov. During his stay in Damascus, 'Arafat chaired meetings of the PLO leadership and of its Higher Military Council, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted. The PLO leader also addressed a 9 January Fatah rally in the Syrian capital, warning his audience that although Anwar as-Sadat has gone, there are still many As-Sadats in the area, according to the radio. 'Arafat stressed the importance of Palestinian democracy and unity. Damascus radio also reported on the rally, but gave more coverage to a Syrian Ba'th Party official's speech than to 'Arafat's remarks. 'Arafat held no official contacts with the Syrian leadership in Damascus, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service noted.

Libyan Meeting -- Representatives of various Palestinian and Lebanese groups arrived in Libya on 8 January to discuss current Arab affairs, according to the Voice of Arab Homeland radio. Pointing out that the talks coincide with Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan to consolidate PLO-Jordanian relations, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service claimed that the Libyan meetings are being held at Syria's behest and could indicate a pending split in the PLO between 'Arafat's supporters and opponents.

PLO "Air Force" -- Palestinian pilots in Libya, Syria, the PDRY and YAR have been told by Yasir 'Arafat to stand ready for a new phase in the struggle against Israel, according to a Kuwaiti newspaper report cited by KUNA.

Israel

Tel Aviv Terrorist Attack -- An explosion on a Tel Aviv bus wounded 11 people, Jerusalem radio reported on 8 January. Baghdad Voice of PLO Radio announced that PLO fighters were responsible for the operation. However, the London daily newspaper AL-'ARAB reported that dissident Palestinian leader Abu Nidal's group, Black June, has claimed responsibility for the attack, according to Jerusalem radio.

Overtures to USSR -- "Authoritative political sources" confirmed that Israel has recently been attempting both directly and indirectly to establish a dialogue with the Soviet leadership, Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan

A popular army will be formed to share responsibility with the Jordanian armed forces in defending the Kingdom of Jordan and in providing various types of civil defense and ideological assistance, according to a draft law published in the Amman daily AR-RA'Y on 8 January. The popular army is to be supervised, trained and supplied by the armed forces and will be comprised of all Jordanian nationals in the following categories: male and female students in secondary schools, community colleges and universities; males 16-55 years old who are neither students nor members of the armed forces; and female volunteers 16-35 years old.

Mubarak on Reagan Plan, USSR -- President Husni Mubarak declared that the Arabs have only 6-12 months to reach a settlement with Israel on the basis of the Reagan initiative, because it would be very difficult for President Reagan to implement his Middle East plan once the presidential election campaign begins, Cairo radio reported citing remarks made during an AP interview. The Egyptian president reaffirmed his country's commitment to peace with Israel and stated that it would be a "great loss" if the Arabs do not act to implement the Reagan initiative. Mubarak affirmed that Egypt is interested in improving relations with the Soviet Union and added that he expects the two countries to exchange ambassadors in the future.

USSR Official To Visit -- A senior Middle East expert from the USSR Foreign Ministry is expected to visit Cairo "this week" to discuss the possibilities for normalizing and developing relations, INA claimed on 8 January citing an "informed Soviet source." Soviet and Egyptian officials reached initial agreement on the visit during Leonid Brezhnev's funeral in November 1982 and subsequently held intensive contacts to arrange the upcoming visit, according to INA.

'Ismat as-Sadat -- The court of ethics began hearing witnesses in the trial of 'Ismat as-Sadat, brother of the late President Anwar as-Sadat, MENA reported. 'Ismat as-Sadat and his sons are accused of exploiting their influence with senior officials in various ministries, tampering with the people's livelihood and seizing public funds, MENA noted.

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IRAQ'S 'AZIZ MEETS WITH EGYPT'S GHALI IN PARIS

INA Report

JN072010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, 7 Jan (INA) -- In his place of residence here this evening Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, received Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs. In a statement to an INA correspondent after the meeting which lasted more than 1 hour, 'Aziz said he exchanged views with Dr Ghali on relations between the two fraternal countries, the current Arab situation and other issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Mashshat, Iraq's ambassador to France.

Ghali, 'Aziz on Talks

NC072107 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, 7 Jan (MENA) -- Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The 90-minute meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador in Paris Muhammad al-Mashshat, Egyptian Ambassador in Paris Samir Safwat and Ambassador Sa'd al-Farariji, the director of Dr Ghali's office. The meeting took place in the Iraqi ambassador's residence.

Following the meeting, Dr Butrus Ghali said that Tariq 'Aziz conveyed a letter to him from President Saddam Husayn for President Husni Mubarak in which President Husayn expressed his gratitude and that of the Iraqi Government and people for Egypt's support of Iraq. He also expressed the importance of the constant meetings between the leaderships of the two countries.

Dr Ghali said that the contacts and relations between Iraq and Egypt now make traditional diplomacy insignificant; they also go beyond diplomatic relations, because popular and actual relations are much more important. In this context he referred to the presence of over 1 million Egyptians in Iran. Dr Ghali added: I have agreed with Tariq 'Aziz on the need to continue the consultations between our countries and on further exchanges of views on the Middle East and nonaligned issues.

Dr Ghali described the talks he had with Tariq 'Aziz as extremely positive. He added that views were exchanged on everything connected with the Middle East crisis, the latest developments in the area, the Palestinian issue and nonaligned policy. Dr Ghali said that he briefed Tariq 'Aziz on Egypt's stand on the Nonaligned Movement and affirmed to him Egypt's interest that the eighth nonaligned conference be held in Baghdad and Egypt's support of this question. He added that he listened to an analysis by Tariq 'Aziz on the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

Meanwhile, Tariq 'Aziz described his meeting with Dr Butrus Ghali as amicable and said: We spoke about the relations between Iraq and Egypt, the Arab situation and common issues. We also exchanged views on international problems in general. We believe that such meetings are extremely useful. Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the discussions during the meeting dealt with relations between the two countries in particular and common Arab questions in general as well as with Egyptian aid to Iraq.

Dr Butrus Ghali arrived in Paris this afternoon on a 24-hour visit. He will leave for Nicaragua tomorrow afternoon.

Further on 'Aziz-Ghali Talks

NC072124 Paris AFP in English 2112 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, Jan 7 (AFP) -- Iraqi Vice Premier Tariq 'Aziz met here today with Egyptian Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali in the first high-level meeting between the two countries since Egypt and much of the Arab world broke off relations in 1979. An Iraqi source said the two leaders met for an hour at the home of Iraqi ambassador to France Muhammad al-Mashshat. It was the first official contact between Iraqi and Egyptian officials since the signing in 1979 of the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty.

Paris was the site of another ground-breaking inter-Arab meeting in October when Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil shook hands here with Druze Progressive Socialist leader Walid Junblatt.

Mr 'Aziz, who is here on a working visit to France, said the "positive attitudes adopted by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak" must be taken into consideration and encouraged if Israel's plans to isolate Egypt from the Arab world were not to be favored. According to press reports, Egypt has supplied Iraq with several hundred Soviet-made tanks worth about 170 million dollars. Iraqi sources have said that Egypt has supplied most of the 10,000 to 15,000 volunteers it claims to have mobilized to fight Iran. Egypt has denied that Egyptian troops are fighting on the Iranian-Iraqi front.

Iraq thus becomes the fourth Arab country, after Jordan, Morocco and Lebanon, to resume an official dialogue with Egypt since Mr Mubarak came to power. Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) set up contact last summer during the fighting in Lebanon, but these contacts have been suspended.

Mr 'Aziz said today's meeting was organized at the request of Mr Ghali, who was traveling through the French capital on his way to a meeting of non-aligned countries in Managua.

Mr 'Aziz earlier said at a press conference today that his country was experiencing financial difficulties. It was the first such comment by an Iraqi leader since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian war. Mr 'Aziz, who ended his five-day working visit today, said France has promised to help out with Iraq's money problems. He said he had won "serious and practical measures" from France to help resolve the "temporary" difficulties his country was undergoing.

French sources said Paris was thinking of tripling its oil purchases from Iraq and granting Iraq facilities for payment to buy weapons. France bought 1.7 million barrels of oil from Iraq in 1982 for 2.5 percent of its total oil supply. Iraqi oil production has fallen from an average before the war of three million barrels a day to 700,000 barrels a day in 1982. Iraq, one of the French military industry's main clients, has over the past two years bought 27,500 million francs (4,135 million dollars) worth of war material, of which 7,000 million francs (1,052 million dollars) is to be paid in 1983. Mr 'Aziz said French-Iraqi military cooperation would take place on a "vast scale" but that Eastern European countries would remain Iraq's main arms suppliers. Mr 'Aziz said new Iraqi oil shipments to France might include oil Saudi Arabia gave Iraq to help it fight Iran. Mr 'Aziz did not give figures either for eventual French-Iraqi military or oil trade.

He noted that the Soviet Union, after an interruption of one year, had resumed selling weapons to Iraq while the United States, which does not maintain diplomatic relations with Iraq, had sold his country an estimated 400 million dollars worth of grain.

He said French-Iraqi negotiations to rebuild the Tamuz nuclear site -- destroyed in June 1981 by Israeli planes -- had been proceeding normally for the past 18 months. But observers noted that Mr 'Aziz had met during his visit with French President Francois Mitterrand and the external relations, defense, economics, and foreign trade ministers but not with Research and Industry Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, who supervises French nuclear affairs.

'ARAFAT, SYRIANS ATTEND FATAH DAMASCUS RALLY

JN071754 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo Damascus correspondent Louis Faris on 7 January -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived at Damascus airport from Kuwait this afternoon, accompanied by Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym] and Hani al-Hasan, whereas Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] remained in the Kuwaiti capital.

Immediately after his arrival, the Palestinian leader left for the Tishrin Sports Hall to patronize the large rally held by the Fatah movement on its 18th anniversary. At 1600 today the rally was opened with the Syrian and Palestinian national anthems. Attending the rally were some Syrian and Palestinian leaders as well as the heads of the diplomatic missions and a huge crowd carrying pictures, posters and placards stressing the Palestinian national unity and the PLO's sole representation. At the time of this newscast the speakers were still delivering their speeches. We hope to provide you with the most important points in the speeches by the Palestinian leader and the Syrian representative in subsequent newscasts.

I have learned that the Palestinian leader will leave tomorrow or the day after tomorrow for the Jordanian capital. Regarding a meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Abu 'Ammar, no Syrian or Palestinian official has wanted to comment. However, an Arab diplomat told me here that he believes that the eruption of incidents in Tripoli, Lebanon, has displeased the Syrian leadership since this leadership believes that certain Fatah elements were involved in fighting alongside the anti-Syrian militias. Accordingly, this diplomat considers any meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Abu 'Ammar unlikely, but possible.

Damascus Report on Rally

JN080845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Fatah held a central speech rally in the Tishrin Sports Hall yesterday afternoon on the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution. The rally was attended by PLO Executive Committe Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC]; some PLO Executive Committee members, heads and members of the Palestinian popular and trade union organizations, and a large crowd of Palestinians.

Comrade Yusuf al-Ahmad, Ba'th Party Central Committee member and deputy head of the regional youth office, attended the speech rally on behalf of the Ba'th Party.

The rally began with the Syrian and Palestinian national anthems and the observation of 1 minute of silence for the Arab nation's martyrs in the battles of heroism and honor against the Zionist enemy.

Yusuf al-Ahmad delivered a speech on behalf of the Ba'th Party in which he stressed that, on the 18th anniversary, the Arab nation is facing fateful challenges to its national existence, future, freedom, and security. One of the most important threats is being concocted by U.S. imperialist quarters and the Zionist enemy to liquidate the Palestinian cause, because it is the Arabs' basic cause, and to consolidate the Zionist presence in the Arab homeland so that Israel may become a military, political, and economic base for U.S. imperialism. He added that the objective of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was to liquidate the Lebanese state, fragment Lebanese unity, achieve regional gains, place Lebanon under U.S.-Israeli hegemony, liquidate the Palestinian Revolution, and deal a military and political blow to Syria, given that it represents the basic military and political force in the historic struggle that is currently taking place on our soil. Syria is shouldering the largest part of the responsibility of confrontation on behalf of the Arab nation out of its commitment to its pan-Arab obligation to the Palestinian cause.

Al-Ahmad added: From the premise of this commitment, we have confronted the Camp David course and have shouldered the main burden of the confrontation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Our armed forces fought courageously to defend the Arab nation's honor and their Lebanese and Palestinian brothers. Our martyrs' blood watered the soil of fraternal Lebanon and mixed with the blood of the strugglers, the sons of Lebanon and of the Palestinian revolution. We fought in Lebanon, in the streets of Beirut, in the mountain area and Al-Biqa' to keep the Arab banner high. On this occasion we tell all those who are counting on a shift in the direction of Camp David as a consequence of the circumstances of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, making it possible for a new As-Sadat to emerge in order to contribute to the new conspiracy: Seach for another course, because the Arab masses will deal decisively with all those who put themselves on the Camp David course, or try to do so, by offering concessions or trying to justify relinquishing the cause.

Comrade al-Ahmad said: The Arab masses at present are required to show more alertness and maturity toward the attempt to achieve reconciliation with the Egyptian regime, which is still deeply involved in the Camp David quagmire and is calling on the PLO to recognize the enemy and toward the attempt to find a role for the Egyptian regime in the conspiracy of a settlement, whose main objective will be the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. Those who call on the PLO and Syria to show political flexibility toward the antagonism that Israel is practicing are asking us to surrender, open the door for a further invasion of Arab land and allow more occupation and humiliation to be imposed on Arab citizens.

Comrade al-Ahmad went on: Through the various stages of their struggle in history, the peoples have never succeeded in achieving their aspirations by looking up to the aggressor or by seeking ways for coexistence with it. Any nation which does not offer blood and sacrifices for its fate and future will never have a place among the nations. Al-Ahmad added that, in crucial circumstances, strugglers must remain committed to their principles because any maneuver to divert them from these principles will be lethal and destructive.

Addressing the Palestinian strugglers, Al-Ahmad said: We are aware of the hige tasks to be done and the difficulty of the time. Despite all this, Syria has decided to remain committed to principles, to build up its intrinsic strength and to exert all its efforts for this purpose because a strong Syria means a long, serious step along the road to liberation and victory in the Golan and Palestine.

Comrade al-Ahmad said: While you are facing very difficult, complicated, and grave circumstances, you must rest assured that we stand on solid, sound ground protected by a determination to offer sacrifices and to pursue the struggle until victory is achieved, not heeding suffering because the greatest victories are produced by the greatest suffering. Palestinian strugglers everywhere, you are not alone. Svria and its masses, its party and its armed forces are with you. Syria will always support you as long as you have the Palestinian cause at heart. Rest assured that Syria will always remain with all the strugglers because the rights of peoples can only be regained through struggle and sacrifices. The easiest way to lose a cause is to wait at the doors of the enemy or those who are similar to the enemy. Strugglers, rest assured that Svria is not a country which offers assistance and support alone. Syria is a country which strugglers, offers sacrifices and fights because it considers Palestine to be its heart.

He added: Strugglers, we have friends in the world at large. All the forces of progress and liberation are supporting us, foremost of which is the friendly USSR, which is loyal to the Arabs in their just struggle.

The comrade representative of the Ba'th Party concluded: We have no course other than the one which we have chosen. On such occasions we have to renew the pledge to pursue the struggle. On this occasion, I extend the warmest greetings to you from the Syrian masses, our party and our leader.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum delivered a speech stressing that the outbreak of the Palestinian Revolution had been an effective translation of the will of the Palestinian and Arab people. He pointed out that the relationship between the Palestinian Revolution and Arab Syria continues to be an organic fateful relationship. Syria is the lung of the Palestinian Revolution. [as heard] The history of joint action between the Palestinian Revolution and the 8 March Revolution proves that the days of victory and optimism have been those when cohesion existed between the Palestinian Revolution and Syria and that Palestinian-Syrian cohesion on the battlefield alongside the Lebanese nationalist forces has achieved great feats. The consolidation of Syrian-Palestinian relations is the cornerstone of our struggle.

Al-Fahum added: Greetings to steadfast, militant, and patient Syria, which is confronting Zionism and imperialism. Greetings to its struggler President Hafiz al-Asad and its valiant Armed Forces, whose blood has been profusely shed on the soil of Palestine, Lebanon, and elsewhere in defense of the Palestinian cause and other Arab causes.

Al-Fahum denounced Reagan's plan, the Camp David accords, and the Zionist-imperialist attempts aimed at obliterating the Palestinian Arab people's rights. Al-Fahum stressed that the PLO will not surrender to any party whatsoever and will not empower it to speak on its behalf. He added: In accordance with the PNC resolutions, we reject the Camp David accords and course, reiterate that we shall not establish relations with the Egyptian regime. We shall work with the Egyptian masses, headed by their nationalist and progressive forces, to foil the Camp David policy. We shall also work to bolster our relations with socialist countries, particularly the USSR. We shall firmly confront U.S. imperialism and its policy, given that it is in the camp which is hostile to our just cause.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat afterward delivered a speech in which he greeted beloved Syria. He said: We meet in beloved Syria today to celebrate this occasion together.

In his speech, 'Arafat reviewed the events which took place in Lebanon and Beirut last year. He said: We have waged this heroic epic in Beirut and Lebanon alongside our brother revolutionaries of the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces and our brother Syrian soldiers from the Arab Deterrent Forces.

'Arafat described the Israeli invasion of Lebanon as being a U.S. operation in terms of planning, armament and financing. It even included the U.S. veto in the UN Security Council. He added: It is no coincidence that Philip Habib is trying to make us leave Beirut, thus making us emigrate for the fourth and fifth time.

'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian Revolution is not alone because it is supported by all free men in the Arab nation and the world at large.

Speaking of the many conspiracies against the Palestinian Revolution, beginning with the Camp David conspiracy and ending with the new conspiracies and schemes. 'Arafat said: Traitor as-Sadat has gone but there are many others like him in the region. We must be alert and very cautious.

'Arafat concluded by stressing the need to achieve Palestinian national unity.

'Arafat Rally Speech

JN081828 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Under the patronage of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Fatah movement held a speech rally on the anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution in Damascus yesterday evening. The rally was attended by Brother Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council speaker; several members of the Executive Committee; the secretaries general of the Revolution factions; Brother In'am Ra'd, representative of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement; representatives of Arab and friendly international liberation movements; representatives of Arab and friendly international diplomatic missions in Syria; representatives of the Palestinian popular organizations; and large crowd of the Palestinian and Arab masses.

The celebration began with the national Palestinian anthem played by the Fatah youth band. The crowd stood and observed 1 minute of silence in honor of the souls of the martyrs of the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab nation. Brother Abu 'Ammar made a speech in which he said: At a time like this, and on this occasion, we meet today on the land of Salah ad-Din and Khalid ibn al-Walid to celebrate the anniversary of the birth and firm belief, this Revolution, as the martyr of the Arab nation Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir said, was born to stay and to be victorious.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Yes my brothers, we meet today to celebrate the birth of our Revolution. The year 1982 passed, with all its good aspects and its shortcomings. We all fought the heroic epic in Beirut and Lebanon with our brothers, the revolutionaries of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces. We fought against this U.S.-Israeli conspiracy because this was not an Israeli military operation, but a U.S. operation executed by paid mercenaries, represented by the Israeli army. Their aim behind this operation was to annihilate the Palestinian Revolution and to liquidate the Palestinian issue. This military operation was paid for by the U.S. Administration. It is sufficient for us to recall what Alexander Haig said in Tel Aviv a short time before that when he revealed the whole operation. He said that what happened in Lebanon was a U.S. operation -- armed, planned, financed, and covered up for, and that it even included the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council by the U.S. Administration.

Based on this, we know that what happened in Lebanon was not a limited operation at all, but a large-scale operation which was not merely aimed against the heroic Lebanese and Palestinian people but against the Arab nation.

When we fought within the joint forces and when we stood in that trench we were not defending Lebanon or Palestine, we were in fact defending our Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf. We were not defending ourselves, we were defending this nation because the conspiracy was against the very existence of this nation. From here, I say to our nation and its masses that the volcano which erupted in Beirut will continue until its tremors reach the walls of Jerusalem. There we will raise the lofty banner of our Arab nation upon its minarets, hills, and valleys.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: In these difficult circumstances and hard Arab times and due to the Beirut epic, the Palestinian fighters bear great pan-Arab revolutionary responsibilities of struggle. We must cooperate and join hands with all freemen in this nation in order to form the front of steadfastness and challenge in this region so that we will be able to say that this soil will remain Arab because it contains the remains of our grandfathers and great grandfathers. On this soil, our heroes will live. This is our path. Since we started our revolution, we have been aware that this path was not full of roses. We said that our march is difficult, hard, and very long. We have not deceived anybody; we said that it is a prolonged popular liberation war. During our march, we have not ceased sacrificing our blood. We were certain that the plotters wanted to strike at this Palestinian Revolution; that the Arab masses constitute the revolution's protecting bastion and tributary. The Beirut epic gave a practical proof that this revolution will continue until Palestine and Jerusalem are liberated.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Our sacrifices did not cease during this march because the revolution decided that only the Palestinian Revolution's guns will draw up the map of the area; that the history of this region will be written with the blood of our martyrs. We tell all the martyrs in this march: Sa'd Sayil, Majid, Ghassan Kanafani, 'Abdallah Siyam, Abu 'Ali Iyad, Abu Sabri, Abu Yusuf an-Najjar, Kamal 'Adwan, and Kamal Nasir that we will keep our promise and honor our oath until Palestine and Jerusalem are liberated.

The United States has planned, financed, and armed this Israeli aggression. The Palestinian revolution is not alone. With it are the free men in our Arab nation and the world. It is not surprising that following the Warsaw meeting, a statement was issued stressing the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue. It affirmed the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. Our friends all over the world prove to our enemies that this revolution is not alone. It is in the living conscience of all free and honorable men in the world.

It is not surprising that Philip Habib and the U.S. Administration attempted to work toward driving us out of Beirut and to force us to emigrate for a fourth and fifth time. Our manhood demands that we make our bodies into bridges so that our comrades may pass. This is the conviction of the Palestinian Revolution. We face this tyrant with our fingers on the trigger. Believe me that traitor As-Sadat has gone, but there are many As-Sadats in the area. Therefore, we must be alert. We must protect our independent national Palestinian will with our soul and blood.

I tell you that I will remain at your side to preserve the Palestinian national decision-making and to protect it with the Palestinian gun. This decisionmaking was manifested in Beirut through our Palestinian national unity which is the protective shield for this revolutionary march.

Hence I tell my brother George [Habash], my brother Nayif [Hawatimah], my brother Tal'at [Ya'aub], my brother 'Abd ar-Rahim [not further identified] and my brother 'Isam al-Qadi and all my brothers in the Palestinian leadership that our hands will remain united and holding on to this rifle. When we speak about the national unity we say a very important thing: The main factor which governs this national unity inside and outside the occupied homeland is the independent national decisionmaking and democracy, democracy, and democracy, because slaves do not fight. Our national unity has joined hands with the Lebanese nationalist forces in a unique revolutionary manner in order to create the new dawn.

We do not fight for the sake of war and death; we fight for victory. We do not fight in order to commit suicide; we fight to establish a democratic Palestinian state. When we came out of the Beirut epic holding our rifles, we consolidated our military victory with a political victory which we recorded in the Fes summit.

We made use of the Arab and international resolutions in strengthening our military gains through political gains. We are aware that our path is arduous and long. But I challenge with these cub fighters Israel's Sharon who stood with his army for 79 days on the walls of Beirut like all tyrants. I challenge them with our children in our homeland. I tell our people in the occupied homeland: We will meet with them at the coming dawn.

In your name I greet our detainees in the enemy prisons and detention camps. I greet the struggle of our people inside the occupied homeland. I greet our heroes in the joint forces and in the Lebanese resistance. In your name I say: The march is continuing until victory.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS MILITARY, POLITICAL MEETINGS

JN091706 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chaired a meeting of the Higher Palestinian Military Council in Damascus yesterday evening. Our correspondent said that during the meeting the latest military developments in Lebanon were discussed, particularly the Zionist forces military concentrations in Al-Biqa'. He said that the meeting also dealt with military organizational issues of the various Palestinian Revolution forces, including training and the issue of arms.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also chaired in his office in Damascus an extensive meeting of the Palestinian leadership which included Brother Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council, the secretaries general of the Palestinian Revolution factions and members of the PLO Executive Committee who are in Damascus.

SOVIET OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS NORMALIZATION

JN081818 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (INA) -- A senior USSR Foreign Ministry expert on Middle East affairs is due in Cairo this week for talks with Egyptian officials dealing with the possibilities of normalizing and developing relations between the two countries.

This was stated by an informed Soviet source to the INA correspondent here, explaining that the USSR-Egyptian talks will also touch on the latest developments in the Middle East problem, the peace issue in the region, and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The same source added that the Soviet official's visit has been set following intensive contacts between Cairo and Moscow and that the initial agreement was reached during a meeting held between Egyptian Vice President [title as received] Mamduh Salim and Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in November 1982 during the former's participation in the late Brezhnev's funeral.

It is to be recalled that last week USSR Power and Electrification Minister Petr Neporozhniy stressed the importance of normalizing Egyptian-USSR relations. He expressed the conviction of the Soviet leadership that such a step would contribute to developing USSR-Arab relations.

GHALI SAYS RELATIONS WITH ARABS 'MATTER OF TIME'

NC072112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, 7 Jan (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that there are contacts between Egypt and the Arab states, that Egyptian-Arab cooperation continues in various fields and that the restoration of diplomatic relations is a matter of time.

At a news conference he held today at the Egyptian mission in Geneva, Dr Ghali stressed the need for Jordanian and Palestinian participation in the negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza.

Dr Ghali called on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon [passage indistinct]

Dr Ghali affirmed that Egyptian-Palestinian relations are good and are continuing. He noted that a PLO office is still in Cairo. He also reaffirmed that Egypt welcomes a visit by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at any time. Egypt also welcomes the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile to be the starting point of a new move on the Palestinian question.

In respect to Egypt and its relations with the Nonaligned Movement, [passage indistinct] he outlined that trade and technical exchange continues between the two sides.

'AZIZ ON WILLINGNESS FOR TALKS WITH ISRAEL

NC071444 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, Jan 7 (AFP) — Iraq would not be opposed to negotiations involving Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Arab states for a settlement to the Middle East crisis, a high-ranking Iraqi official said here.

Tariq 'Aziz, vice-president of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, in France on an official visit since Tuesday, said Iraq upheld conclusions of the recent Arab League summit conference in Fes, Morocco, to "negotiate the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza."

He told the newspaper LE MONDE that Iraq had adhered to the Fes summit decisions because "we are not opposed to a peaceful settlement of the problem and therefore to negotiations involving Israel on the one hand and the PLO and its Arab partners on the other."

Iraq had once been considered one of the staunchest members of the Arab "Steadfastness Front" -- grouping Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the PLO -- opposed to any dealings with Israel.

Mr 'Aziz also told the paper he favoured the "unconditional reintegration" of Egypt within the Arab League -- from which it was excluded after signing a peace treaty with Israel. He said it was essential to reestablish dialogue with Cairo and to do that it was absurd to set conditions.

Mr 'Aziz also revealed that he was to meet Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali in Paris later today to look into ways of developing their relations "in all spheres."

'AZIZ INTERVIEWED ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

JN071936 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal in Paris on 7 January -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] It seems Paris has become a major place which you visit on all your travels. Do you come here because of the nice Paris climate or is it perhaps because of arms?

[Answer] The climate in Paris is indeed very beautiful. But since the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian war my visits to Paris have been working visits. I visit Paris to discuss Iraqi-French relations. These relations are not limited to one area despite the importance of the field you have just mentioned. This is because our relations with France are very wide.

[Question] You have met with the French premier, the external relations minister, the foreign trade minister, the defense and finance ministers. You have met with President Mitterrand. In light of these meetings, how do you evaluate the French political position vis-a-vis the Iraqi-Iranian dispute?

[Answer] French officials, led by President Mitterrand, have shown me an understanding which I would describe as deep in terms of the situation in our region and the threats against the region as a result of Iran's insistence on continuing the war against Iraq. The French Government is interested in the region's stability and prosperity and in sound relations between this region and the world. In their view, the Iranian threat to Iraq threatens all these factors. Therefore, I did not find any difficulty in explaining our problem. On the contrary, our views were in agreement on the nature of the situation in the region.

[Question] If you please, we will return to this issue later. Another question is: Do you believe that the good atmosphere in Iraqi-French relations was further improved by President Saddam's Husayn's remarks to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on Israel's right to security? We are aware that France attaches great importance to Israel's security and that of all the states in the region.

[Answer] I do not know because the French officials did not mention this issue or this statement. The level of understanding between us and the French leadership is not new. Even during my previous visit, which was the first during the current French Administration, I found a high level of understanding concerning our stand and problems. Recently, relations between us and the French officials have been strengthened, particularly with External Relations Minister Cheysson. We held many contacts on various issues. As I have said their understanding toward our problems has been the same during the past few weeks. This subject was not touched on in our talks.

[Question] Why was President Saddam's statement not published until a few days ago after a lapse of 3 months? Is the timing of the publication of the statement significant?

[Answer] I do not think so. President Saddam Husayn likes to revise his talks and interviews and to study them as an intellectual and politician. After this, he sends them for publication. It may be that the delay was for this reason. I have not asked my president about this, but I think that is the reason.

[Question] What is meant by Israel's right to security? Within what conditions can Israel have this right?

[Answer] In my opinion, it is not right to discuss this issue for very long. What is meant by this statement? The Arabs agreed at the Fes summit to solve the current dispute by establishing a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip on the basis of negotiations. It is therefore logical to say that the other side will demand certain terms for its security. It is also logical that those who negotiate this should accept certain arrangements. That is the idea. Iraq participated in the Fes summit; it did not object to the Fes resolutions. It hopes that the current efforts will lead to a result benefiting the Arab nation. I do not want to interpret my president's words because he can explain them better to the nation. I am one of his comrades in the leadership. I understand exactly what he means. However, I believe that it is not right to expand this issue.

[Question] Let us return to your visit to France. The news media indicated that the purpose of this visit was to purchase more French weapons and to obtain certain payment conditions. What are Iraq's military needs from France? Does Iraq have financial difficulties, for example?

[Answer] Military and economic cooperation between Iraq and France is very large and includes several fields. The arrangements for an Iraqi official to visit France and vice versa take a long time because of the diversity of the relationship. In fact, we do not have any new important or exceptional requests. This is a followup of the relations which were established in the past and continue still. Is Iraq undergoing economic difficulties? Iraq is now in the third year of the war and some of its oil-exporting terminals were shut down due to the war or the Syrian Government's decision. It is natural for a country which is in a state of war to face economic difficulties. However, these difficulties can be dealt with. The Iraqi leadership, which managed to deal with larger difficulties, is capable of dealing with these problems. I have discussed this with the French friends and I believe we can find suitable solutions for both Iraq and France in a manner which will guarantee the continuation of our cooperation in all fields in the interest of the two countries.

[Question] Does purchasing huge quantities and various types of French weapons, including Mirage F-1's, AMX-30 tanks, Exocet missiles, helicopters, artillery pieces and perhaps Mirage-2000's as is said, mean that Iraq will depend on Western weapons and introduce a qualitative change in its weapons to conform with the weapons used by the Arab Gulf states?

[Answer] No, I believe that our cooperation with France in this field stems from a decision we made several years ago on the diversification of the sources of weapons. Although it may appear that we buy many weapons from France, these weapons are not a very large percentage of our arms. I do not think that large armed forces like the Iraqi Armed Forces can adapt their armament in light of the armament of much smaller armed forces. The contrary is true.

[Question] Is it likely that Iraq will purchase Mirage-2000's? Some Arab countries possess (?such planes).

[Answer] We talked with the French friends about this.

[Question] How are your present relations with the Arab Gulf states and Saudi Arabia? President Saddam Husayn blamed some Gulf states for not extending sufficient support to Iraq. What kind of support does Iraq expect from the Gulf states?

[Answer] If we consider the Iranian aggression a threat not only against Iraq but also against all the region's states -- and this is what our brothers in the Gulf and many other Arab countries say -- Iraq should be supported with all sorts of methods. This is the natural conclusion of any analysis. Is Iraq being supported with all means? Everyone knows that the answer is no. Support is extended but not with all means and it does not rise up to the level of the challenge. This is our opinion and we hope that all our Arab brothers in the entire Arab homeland will understand that the Iranian threats against Iraq are threats against them and that the level of confronting these threats must rise to the level of the dangers posed to the Arab homeland and the Arab nation.

[Question] Nevertheless, we recently noticed that the Iraqi forces dealt strong blows to Iran. What is the military situation at present, particularly in Khark Island? What is the truth about striking the Iranian oil installations and oil tankers?

[Answer] Our military situation is, in general, excellent. We are confident that the Iranian regime will not succeed in any miltiary attempt against our borders and lands. We are capable of strongly and firmly confronting the enemy and inflicting large losses once it tries to attack us as it had been doing from last July until a few weeks ago. Our air force and navy have been remarkably active during the past few weeks, inflicting considerable losses on the Iranian regime. This is, of course, part of the ongoing war between us and the aggressors. We have the right to develop the means and capabilities to make them feel that their aggression against us and their continuation of aggression will cost them a great deal.

[Question] What about striking at the oil installations?

[Answer] They began to strike at the civilian and oil installations on 4 September 1980 and this has gone on throughout the war.

[Question] Military victories are not an end in themselves. The French external relations minister said that Iraq now admits the legitimacy of its borders with Iran according to the Algiers Agreement. This renders Iran's continuation of the war meaningless. Are you hopeful this time for the success of the Algerian mediation?

[Answer] We certainly hope the Algerian mediation will be successful. We encouraged this mediation and all other attempts by other sides, like the Islamic committee, the nonaligned committee, and the UN secretary general's representative. We hope that this mediation will succeed. However, Iranian aggression against us is not aimed at the borders. The ruling regime in Tehran wants all Iraq and is threatening all Iraqi people and lands. They do not consider it a question of borders. We have always recognized the legitimate international land borders with Iran. The demarcation of borders in 1975 was the same border demarcation cited in the 1937 and 1913 treaties.

[Question] It is reported that this time the Iraqis and Iranians agree to the mission of Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. How true is this? Is there any hope of reaching a cease-fire agreement?

[Answer] We support the Algerian mediation -- as I have already said -- and I cannot comment on the viewpoint of the other side. I have no information on this.

[Question] Are your relations with Syria still at loggerheads -- contrary to your relations with Egypt? Are you expected to meet soon with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who welcomed any meeting with you?

[Answer] No change has occurred in our relations with Syria. They chose this road. When the Arab brothers tried in Fes to find a solution to relations with Syria we drew up bases to regulate relations, not only between us and Syria but also among the Arab countries. However, the Syrians did not heed these bases and the situation continued as it was. As for Egypt, our relations with it are improving. We are holding dialogues by various means. I told the Egyptian press that we have no objection to meeting with Egyptian officials anywhere, in Baghdad, Cairo, or elsewhere. If the opportunity presents itself neither I nor any other Iraqi official will hesitate to meet with any Egyptian official.

[Question] Will Baghdad resume diplomatic relations with Cairo?

[Answer] This has thus far not been directly discussed on the Arab level. It was submitted to the Fes summit and there were various opinions. Therefore, the conferees agreed to postpone it. In my opinion, what is more important is to have relations, not necessarily diplomatic or nondiplomatic relations. What is important is the nature of the relationship between Egypt and the Arab countries, particularly the important part of this relationship which can responsibly contribute to the decisionmaking in the Arab arena. There are countries which have diplomatic ties but no real relations.

[Question] Do you think that Syria must withdraw quickly from Lebanon? How can you judge its stand from the events taking place in Tripoli?

[Answer] We believed right from the beginning that the Syrian forces' entry into Lebanon was a mistake. The continuation of these forces' presence in Lebanon is a bigger mistake. The mistake gets bigger every day and the harm exacerbates if these forces continue to exist there. We say this not because we are at loggerheads with Syrian regime. We believe that the presence of military forces belonging to an Arab country in Lebanon is abnormal. They say that they entered Lebanon upon the request of the legitimate authority, and so forth. All Arabs know the true state of affairs and the meaning of these words. The withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon is essential in confronting Israel, not vice versa. Some ask how the Syrian forces can leave Lebanon while the Israel forces are present there. The Syrian forces in Lebanon are not confronting the Israelis; they are confronting the Lebanese.

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Therefore, their evacuation will lead to better conditions in Lebanon, a better national atmosphere, and a stronger Lebanese cohesion, which will enable Lebanon to confront the Israeli intransigence, threats, and ambitions. We believe that it is in the interest of Lebanon and the Arabs that the Syrian forces leave Lebanon immediately.

[Question] How are Iraqi-USSR relations today, particularly since Andropov has come to power?

[Answer] Relations between us and the USSR are normal and good. The traditional Iraqi-USSR cooperation in all fields is proceeding in a fair manner. There are no dramatic surprises in these relations. Issues are developing in a good and satisfactory way.

[Question] President Saddam Husayn has called on the Iraqi people to observe austere measures in order to continue the war. Some Gulf states are reported to be hesitating in offering economic aid to Iraq. Some of these states will assume that by connecting this aid to the austere measures Iraq is exercising pressure. Why is this? Is there any fear that these states will cease backing Iraq?

[Answer] The issue of austerity has no relation whatsoever in stands taken by other states. We are now in the third year of the war. We decided to continue the process of development and construction in our country side by side with the war. We have done that with great success over the past 2 years. Now we are in the third year of the war. Naturally, we must take economic measures to secure the basic needs of the people and the needs of the battle, such as arms. It is only natural that 2 years after the war we cannot continue our large-scale expenditure. I think that no state in the world could fight such an all-out war without taking economic measures called austerity measures. We did not do this during the first 2 years. We are doing this now and this is only natural.

[Question] Despite the stoppage of the Iraqi oil to Baniyas and Tripoli and the closure of the Syrian borders, Iraq continued to implement its development programs. How will the war effort go side by side with the development effort in the long run? Is Iraq considering alternative means to increase its oil production?

[Answer] As I have told you, during the past 2 years, we carried out our development projects and programs at the same rate as before the war. In some cases, the rate after the war exceeded the rate before the war. Now we have to make the rate of our development commensurate with our economic circumstances in the third year of the war. The Iraqi leadership is known for its strategic planning. In 1972 we nationalized oil and the Syrian regime took its well-known position on the passage of the nationalized Iraqi oil through Syrian territory. It imposed on us what I objectively describe as blackmail. We thought of building a pipeline, which at that time was called the strategic line. It would have enabled us to export the northern oil from the south and the southern oil from the north. Following the halt in our oil exports from the Gulf and following the Syrian regime's decision to stop the oil flow through Syrian territory, we are now thinking in terms of a similar project. We are now thinking of another area through which we can export our oil -- an area neither in Syria nor the Gulf.

[Question] In the final analysis, do you believe that this new year will bring an end to the conflict between Iraq and Iran?

[Answer] I cannot say. But I can say that the Iranian regime will sooner or later -- later does not mean in a long time -- reach the realistic conclusion that it will fail in this war; that it will not realize its aims which swim in the minds of the Iranian rulers. They attempted to penetrate our borders in July, September, October, and in November. They issued threats and warnings, raised empty slogans and claimed hollow victories.

They met with an abject failure. They lost many men and much equipment. They will not be able to do better that what they have already attempted to do over the past few months. On the contrary, their coming attempts will meet with greater failure. Therefore, if the Iranian rulers take a realistic view of the situation, they will see that their attempts will be fruitless. I do not think that they will change their intentions. But from the practical viewpoint, they will find themselves unable to continue the process of war. As for the end of the state of war between us and Iran, I cannot say. I do not know what the Iranian rulers think about this. Even if the Iranian rulers find that they are unable to continue the war, I cannot predict their behavior.

[Question] This is your second visit during President Mitterrand's era and your fifth to France. Do you feel Iraqi-French relations can still be described as special?

[Answer] Certainly. Iraqi-French relations are truly special. These relations are bigger than any size in relations between Iraq and any other state. We have large-size relations in the economic field. Some estimates say that there are 1,000 French companies in Iraq. Estimates put the number of French engineers and technical experts working in Iraq between 6 and 7 thousand. Our relations in arms are wide. A great number of Iraqi students are in French universities. There are exchanges of delegations in various fields and on many level. If we compare the relations between France and other states and those of Iraq with other states, we find that Iraqi-French relations are indeed special, as you have just said.

REPORTAGE ON 'AZIZ ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

For Baghdad and Paris reportage on Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz visit to France, including reports on his talks with Foreign Minister Cheysson, Defense Minister Hernu, President Mitterrand, Premier Mauroy, Trade Minister Jobert, and Finance Minister Delors on the possible purchase of arms for the Iraqi military, see the France section of the 4 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'AZIZ SPEAKS ON GULF WAR, MEDIATION EFFORTS

JN072140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, 7 Jan (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister, has said that the Iranian regime still insists on continuing its aggression against Iraq in an attempt to harm Iraq's sovereingty and independence.

In a press conference here this evening and attended by a large number of French, foreign, and Arab correspondents and journalists, 'Aziz stressed that the Iraqi Army has successfully repulsed the Iranian aggression, inflicting very large losses. He pointed out that the Iraqis are determined to deter and strongly confront aggression and to continue their defense of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The RCC member expressed his complete confidence that the Iranian regime cannot achieve any of its aggressive and expansionist objectives.

Regarding the Arab position, 'Aziz noted that the Fes summit conference resolution was sound and in harmony with the Arab League's principles and the collective Arab defense pact. He said that some Arab countries abided by this resolution from political and other aspects, whereas others disavowed their previous approval of the resolution. This applies specifically to the Syrian regime.

He asserted that the aid extended to Iraq is not up to the level of the Iranian challenge and threats, adding that the Iranian aggression against Iraq threatens the whole Arab nation, particularly the countries of the area where Iraq is located. He stressed that Iraq has enough energy to continue the war which was imposed on it by the Iranian regime, as confirmed in the battlefield. He added that Iraq has also stressed its desire for peace and coexistence with the region's peoples on the basis of independence, freedom, and nonintervention in each others' affairs. We are confident of our victory and of the defeat of the aggressive and expansionist Khomeyniite regime, he said.

Answering a question on the Syrian regime's antinational stands, its alliance with the Khomeyni regime and its collusion with Israel, 'Aziz said that when the Khomeyni forces were sent to attack Iraq, the Israeli forces were invading Lebanon. At the same time, the Syrian regime and Israel were sending arms and ammunition to the Iranian regime to continue the war against Iraq.

Concerning the entry of the Syrian forces into Lebanon, 'Aziz said that the Syrian regime claimed that it entered Lebanon with the agreement of the Lebanese authorities. At that time, the Lebanese authorities were not able to tell the truth. Now there is a legitimate authority in Lebanon demanding the withdrawal of the Syrian and the Israeli forces. 'Aziz wondered why the Israeli and Syrian forces were present in Lebanon at the same time and why the Syrians could not withdraw and leave the Lebanese people in a better position to demand Israeli's withdrawal. This 'Aziz added, reveals that there is a foul plot which has been going on for a long time against the interest of the Arab nation.

On a possible initiative by France and the EEC states to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, 'Aziz said that all good forces in the world must contribute toward ending the armed dispute between Iraq and Iran. He said that the war not only harms the interests of the states in the region and threatens security and stability in its but also threatens the legitimate interests of many world states. Only those states which have strategic ambitions in the region benefit from the war.

Concerning Iraq's role in the Nonaligned Movement, 'Aziz said that the great number of nonaligned states have supported the move calling for hosting the eighth nonaligned summit in Baghdad. This will be raised directly during the seventh nonaligned summit in New Delhi next March. 'Aziz said that Iraq's activities in the Nonaligned Movement are not of a seasonal nature but are a principled policy emanating from Iraq's independent and nonaligned stand.

On his talks with French officials, 'Aziz said that his talks were constructive and were conducted in a practical and cordial atmosphere because of the wide and distinctive relations between the two countries.

'Aziz praised the Egyptian Government's position on the war with Iran and said: We appreciate Egypt's stand in support of Iraq in its struggle with the Iranian enemy. Egypt has openly condemned the Iranian regime's aggression and expressed its solidarity with Iraq in its struggle against this aggression and in the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the war.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH HUSAYN

Arrival Statement

JN081836 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived at Ar-Ramtha 30 minutes ago on a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials. In an arrival statement to the Jordanian TV correspondent, 'Arafat praised his relationship with His Majesty King Husayn. He also praised the relations that bind the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, adding that these are immortal and emanate from the Arab nation's noble character. 'Arafat said that the talks that took place between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides characterized by frankness. We discussed matters thoroughly, profoundly and we were clearly prompted by the immortal and noble relationship between the two peoples.

'Arafat was received at the Ar-Ramtha border by Minister of Occupied Land Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, the Ar-Ramtha district officer and a number of officials. He was also met by Colonel Na'im 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan, and Khattab Abu ar-Rubb, director of the PLO office in Amman.

Additional Report on Arrival

JN081944 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman via Ar-Ramtha this evening on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn to be briefed on the results of his majesty's discussions with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and ranking U.S. officials and to continue the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. In a statement to the Jordanian news agency correspondent upon his arrival at Ar-Ramtha, 'Arafat expressed complete satisfaction with his relationship with His Majesty King Husayn, noting the profound understanding aimed at achieving the Palestinian interests and the aspirations of the Arab nation. He said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is an immortal one, crowned by the nobleness of our Arab nation. Answering a question on recent statements condemning the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, 'Arafat affirmed the unity and soundness of the Palestinian position on these meetings. He said that the statement, issued in Amman recently following our meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and following the meetings of the higher Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee, expressed deeply and clearly the strong relations and pan-Arab ties that bind the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples toward achieving the joint pan-Arab aims.

Replying to the calls by the Israeli leaders for establishing an alternative homeland for the Palestinians outside Palestine, 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinians have only one homeland, Palestine the capital of which is Jerusalem.

Meets With Husayn

JN091430 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. It was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi, Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, Army Commander in Chief Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Occupied Land Affairs Minister Hasan Ibrahim, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, Transport Minister 'Ali as-Suhaymat and Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

It was also attended by Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces; Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, PLO Executive Committee member; Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee member; Hani al-Hasan, the PLO Executive Committee chairman's political adviser; Dr Nabil Sha'th, PLO Executive Committee member; and Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan and director general of the PLO Political Department. The meeting was still going on at the time of this newscast.

Voice of PLO on Talks

JN091652 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Talks between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, and King Husayn began in Amman this afternoon on the results of King Husayn's recent U.S. visit and his talks with the U.S. President Ronald Reagan last month. The commander in chief arrived in Amman yesterday evening from Damascus. He affirmed the deep Jordianian-Palestinian relations by saying that this previous talks with King Husayn and the Jordanian officials were frank. He added that the Palestinians have only one homeland, Palestine, whose capital is Jerusalem. Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah said that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is considered an important factor which is in the interest of peace in the region.

Further on Talks

JN092124 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. During the meeting King Husayn reviewed the results of his pan-Arab mission, during which he headed the Arab seven-member committee on its visits to France, the USSR and the PRC and his talks with President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Administration. The two sides also discussed moves that would achieve a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue, based on right and justice, and that would lead to peace and stability in the region.

Radio Monte Carlo on Talks

JN091259 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman Fu'ad Nu'aym -- live or recorded]

[Text] Jordanian King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat will begin talks in Amman today which will determine the possibility of a Jordanian-Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations and the form of this participation on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the U.S. commitment to President Ronald Reagan's plan which the U.S. President outlined on 1 September. As known, these talks have been preceded by intensive Jordanian-Palestinian meetings for reaching a joint stand which was conveyed to Washington on 21 December. King Husayn and his accompanying delegation also held a series of meetings with the U.S. side to obtain U.S. clarifications and guarantees on the framework for the expected negotiations.

The following constants have appeared from these meetings:

1. The U.S. Administration had not asked King Husayn to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. The king also had not asked the PLO to empower him to negotiate on its behalf. That's why the PLO has not given Jordan the right to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

2. The United States committed itself to obtaining an Israeli commitment to freeze settlements and the number of settlers in the occupied territories in exchange for Jordanian-Palestinian participation in the negotiations.

3. The issue of the PLO's recognition of Israel or the simultaneous recognition between the two parties has been implicitly frozen.

4. Discussion is underway on the possibility of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation whose members will be approved by the PLO without their officially being affiliated to the PLO.

This step, if agreed by the two parties, will be the first step of a political move that will be followed by the submission of the Jordanian-Palestinian formula for approval by the competent Palestinian bodies, particularly the Palestinian National Council. This formula will be elaborated on at the Arab level between now and next spring and will be carried by King Husayn to Washington thus officially announcing a Jordanian-Palestinian response to the peace initiative in the region.

AD-DUSTUR on Meeting

JN091322 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Jan 83

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "Coordination and the New Phase," AD-DUSTUR says: PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman yesterday to chair the Palestinian side to a new round of talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships in crucial and delicate circumstances. This new phase of the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination talks comes amid many signs which give special importance to coordination between brothers. On the other hand, Israel is daily insisting on expansion and the use of armed force to impose a fait accompli. In Lebanon, the picture is clearer; Israel is exploiting its presence in Lebanon to inform all parties who are calling for its withdrawal from Lebanon that it does not care about the opinions of others, their interests, and peace and that its only concern is the protection of its interests regardless of whether they may contradict international laws, interests or peace.

AD-DUSTUR adds: This new round of talks between brothers takes place in wake of His Majesty King Husayn's tour as the head of the seven-member Arab committee which was set up by the Fes summit, the talks which were held during this tour, and the viewpoints on which agreement was reached in the capitals of the superpowers on the problem further complicated by the continued Israeli occupation. Moreover, this round of talks follows the efforts that have been exerted by King Husayn to crystallize a more profound world concept of peace and its just requirements in the region, particularly the talks his majesty held with the U.S. officials during his visit to Washington and the results of these talks. Even though peace cannot be achieved by one side, all preparations must be made during this serious period in which the enemy is in a race with time and is also working hard by all evil means to impose capitulation on our lofty people who are facing challenges. It is also attempting to eliminate the national affiliation to the territories which it has occupied by force. In such circumstances, the two sides, which have a common destiny and are threatened by the same dangers, are dutybound to thoroughly evaluate what they have already agreed on, and take the initiative for facing the dangers of the coming phase.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Although this cooperation is in the interest of the Arab nation for repulsing the dangers which threaten it, we must reiterate that it is not aimed against anyone but has as its only objective the supreme pan-Arab interests. Therefore, it deserves support and a responsible evaluation on all level.

SALIM, DRAPER DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS AGENDA FORMULA

NC091232 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] At 1200 today, a meeting was held between Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and U.S. envoy Morsis Draper at the former's residence in b'abda within the framework of the current contacts to arrive at an agenda for the negotiations. During their meeting, Minister Salim and Ambassador Draper tried to arrive at an acceptable agenda formula and to agree on linguistic terms and a Lebanese position to be submitted in tomorrow's meeting in Khaldah.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil will chair a meeting of the political operations staff at the Republican Palace this evening, which will be attended by the members of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations to define the framework within which the Lebanese delegation can move in the negotiations with the Israeli side.

AL-JUMAYYIL, SALIM VIEW TALKS AGENDA 'CRISIS'

NC081727 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] At 1800 tonight, President Amin al-Jumayyil discussed with Foreign and Expatriates Minister Dr Elie Salim the efforts the United States is exerting with Israel to resolve the crisis over the agenda of the current negotiations among Lebanon, Israel, and the United States on the withdrawal of foreign armies from Lebanon.

Minister Salim briefed President al-Jumayyil on the results of the meeting he held with U.S. envoy Ambassador Morris Draper earlier today.

Minister Salim and Ambassador Draper discussed the various aspects of the situation vis-a-vis the negotiations.

Asked if he expected Lebanon and Israel to agree on a specific agenda on Monday, Minister Salim said: I do not believe I want to comment on this now. The discussions between us were confined to this subject.

The foreign minsiter received French Ambassador in Lebanon Paul Marc Henry, who was accompanied by the embassy's first counsellor, (Daniel Dusont), this morning. The discussions were part of the consultations which Minster Salim is holding on the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate.

SALIM, DELEGATION DISCUSS TALKS WITH ISRAEL

NC091949 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received this evening Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim in his home in Sinn al-Fil. During the meeting, they reviewed the situation on the eve of the fifth round of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations.

Minister Salim then went to the Republican Palace in B'abda, where he met with the Lebanese delegation members participating in the negotiations in the presence of coordinator Ghazzan Tuwayni. It has been learned that the discussions did not deal with politcial issues. Rather, they reviewed a number of possibilities under which the negotiations may be held tomorrow.

The U.S. side presented a second proposal after Israel's rejection of the first proposal. The Lebanese Government is flexible toward this proposal. No Israeli answer has as yet been received to this proposal.

The Lebanese side, however, still adheres to its stand that the agenda must not include challenges with positive substance [tahaddiyat ijabiyat al-madmun], a matter on which Israel insists.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL RESUME IN KHALDAH

Dispatch on Start of Talks

NC100938 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0848 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Ministry of Information from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah, in Arabic, French, and English -- processed from the Arab -- live]

[Text] The fifth round of the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations started at 1030 today in Khaldah. Today's talks will be centered on trying to eliminate the obstacles in the way of arriving at a unified agenda for the negotiations. The atmosphere prevailing here today indicates the possibility for making progress toward entering into the essence of the negotiations, now that the Israeli side has shown, as it appears, flexibility in respect of its adamant stance regarding normalization. This has been the result of U.S. pressures and efforts by Ambassador Draper.

This is not the only reason for today's optimistic atmosphere. The recent Lebanese move at the highest level has contributed toward easing the complexes. President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil recently contacted U.S. President Reagan, asking him to endeavor to drive the current negotiations forward to put matters on their correct course to achieve swift withdrawals from Lebanon, which is the basic demand around which the negotiations made by Lebanon are revolving.

A final remark is that the head of the Lebanese delegation, Ambassador Fattal, today declined to make any statement to reporters before the closed session, expressing the hope that specific positive points may be reached today. Answering a question, Fattal said: We will never lose hope. The negotiations are continuing.

Side Consultations

NC100944 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Ministry of Information from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah, in Arabic, French, and English -- processed from English -- live]

[Text] At exactly 1045 Dr Fattal, the head of the Lebanese delegation, contacted the Presidential Palace to inform President Amin al-Jumayyil of the course of the negotiations and their progress. Side talks are being carried out at the present moment, especially between the American delegation head, Morris Draper, and the Israeli delegation head, David Kimche.

'No Agreement'

TA101004 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0953 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] There is no agreement between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations regarding the U.S. proposals. This has just been reported by a senior source in the Lebanese delegation.

Our correspondent at Khaldah, Gay Bekhor, reports that following consultations the heads of the delegations held with Beirut and Jerusalem, and after consulting in private, the delegations returned to the negotiating table at the main hall. The talks are still in process and at this stage there is no agreement.

Lebanese Suggestion

TA101006 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Difficulties surfaced in Khaldah in accepting the U.S. proposal for the agenda about an hour after the fifth negotiating session between Israel and Lebanon began. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that in an attempt to bypass the obstacle, the Lebanese representatives suggested centering on well-defined subjects and moving on to another issue each time a dispute erupts. The suggestion was raised by the Lebanese after delegation head Antoine Fattal telephoned President al-Jumayyil.

The U.S. proposal regarding the normalization said that the two parties should examine future normal ties, and the new element is the word "future."

Talks Resume

NC100952 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0928 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Ministry of Information from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah, in Arabic, French, and English -- processed from Arabic -- live]

[Text] At 1115, the closed-door Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations resumed after adjourning for 25 minutes. During the adjournment side talks were held between Ambassador Draper and head of the Israeli delegation David Kimche and head of the Lebanese delegation Ambassador Antoine Fattal contacted the Presidential Palace to brief President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil on the atmosphere of the negotiations.

We learned a short while ago from a Lebanese military source that certain information is expected about the progress of the negotiations, which will be different from previous statements, which only used to fix the time of the next session.

AL-WAZZAN LEAVES FOR TALKS IN DAMASCUS 8 JAN

NC080740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan is now leaving for Damascus to hold talks with senior Syrian officials on the situation in Tripoli and the negotiations with Israel. He is accompanied by the director general of the internal security forces, Hisham ash-Sha'ar; the director general of protocol at the prime minister's office, 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykhah; the secretary general of the higher defense council, Brigadier General Michel Abu Khalil; and the director of the Lebanese-Syrian permanent committee in Damascus, Salah 'Abbushi.

Talks 'Not Encouraging'

NC081807 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1645 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan returned from his visit to Damascus at 1730. He immediately went to President al-Jumayyil's residence to acquaint him with the outcome of his meetings with Syrian officials.

According to well-informed sources, it appears that the talks which Al-Wazzan had in Damascus have not been encouraging.

'Sources' on Talks

NC082150 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Excerpts] At 1815 today, immediately upon his return from Damascus, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan proceeded to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's residence in Sinn al-Fil to brief him on the outcome of his talks with Syrian authorities in Damascus. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who also briefed President al-Jumayyil on the results of his meeting with U.S. envoy Ambassador Morris Draper on the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations.

Sources in the Lebanese delegation which accompanied the prime minister to Damascus have said the talks on the Tripoli situation stemmed from three main points: the need for agreement between the Lebanese and Syrian authorities on solving the Tripoli question; then mutual understanding of the reasons for the security instability in the second capital; and the third point, which has been centered on, is the affirmation of the need for a cease-fire in Tripoli starting with the closing of ranks and affirming the possibility of agreement between the two countries.

The sources said this point was strongly stressed because calming the situation in Tripoli and stopping the bloodshed there will help the Lebanese negotiator in these circumstances and will consolidate his position vis-a-vis the hardline Israeli stand and conditions.

The sources said that the Syrian officials expressed complete satisfaction with the sound Lebanese stand in the negotiations and the need for adhering to it. During the talks, an agreement was reached on several security measures to consolidate the cease-fire in Tripoli, the implementation of which will be entrusted to the security forces. It was decided that the director general of the internal security forces, Hisham ash-Sha'ar, will proceed to Tripoli tomorrow to meet with Syrian Army Deputy Chief of Staff Major General 'Ali Aslan, who is presently in the northern capital, to discuss with him the implementation of the measures which have been agreed upon and to contact all the parties there preparatory to starting the steps to be implemented in the field to restore security and stability in the city.

JUNBLATT RETURNS FROM AMMAN, MAKES STATEMENT

NC071239 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Walid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah returned to Beirut from Amman before noon today following a private visit to Jordan which lasted several days.

Asked at the airport about his opinion on the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, Junblatt said: If they are designed to bring about complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon without conditions, I support the negotiations. However, if the negotiations are designed to arrive at certain agreements that are harmful to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and Arab affiliation, this is something serious. If they also are designed to place Lebanon within the sphere of U.S. influence, this too is more serious because Lebanon is a nonaligned Arab state.

Asked about his opinion on the existing situation in Ash-shuf and 'Alayh, Junblatt said: We support the settlement of the situation in the mountain area. However, the settlement requires some conditions. The first of these conditions is the withdrawal of foreign elements from the area. He welcomed the imposition of state authority in the area.

On his assessment of the current situation in Tripoli, Junblatt said: The situation is very dangerous in Tripoli, because instead of warning against Lebanon entering the sphere of U.S.-Israeli influence, some people are settling private accounts in Tripoli. However, Tripoli will remain nationalist.

JUNBLATT LEAVES FOR TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

NC091102 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Leader of the Progressive Socialist Party Walid Junblatt, accompanied by former Ministers Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah, left Beirut before noon today for Riyadh to hold contacts with Saudi officials on the situation in the mountain in particular and in Lebanon in general.

KARAMI CALLS FOR COOPERATION TO SAVE TRIPOLI

NC071814 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] In Tripoli, the coordination committee met today under the chairmanship of [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami and discussed the situation in the capital of the north. Following the meeting, Karami made a statement in which he said: I am pained over what has happened and is happening in Tripoli and against it, because this is increasing the suffering and destruction and creating negative effects on the political level. We see that President Reagan has twice commented on the Tripoli events and described them as tragic. In addition, his secretary of defnese has spoken about our events, announcing that the withdrawals have become necessary and must take place quickly. Percy has also announced that Lebanon must accept some concessions in favor of Israel so that peace can be achieved for it.

Karami added: Therefore, we must realize our responsibilities in view of the fact that what is happening has begun to be exploited in the interests of the enemies. I do not exonerate myself from the responsibility; rather, I want to bear the responsibility on behalf of everyone. I want to cooperate with everyone to save Tripoli once and for all from this plot and sedition. Accordingly, we have sent a subcommittee from the coordination committee to contact the friends who have frozen their participation to brief them on our views and the solutions that we think will serve our country, so that we will all cooperate in the interests of Tripoli.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS WITH LEBANESE FRONT LEADERS

NC071627 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese Front's leaders have discussed the political and security developments as well as the negotiations [with Isreal] and the situation in the north and in the mountain.

Following the meeting [former] President Camille Sham'un made a statement on behalf of the Lebanese Front.

He said: We have held a round of talks on the issues of the hour, particularly on the situation in 'Alayh, Ash-Shuf, and Tripoli and the current negotiations. We made an indepth study of these issues. We cannot give details on all that we have discussed. However, I hope that the results will be good regarding all issues.

Asked if there is coordination between the Lebanese Front and President al-Jumayyil regarding the political stances, Sham'un said: I would not call it coordination; rather, it is the will of the Lebanese Front to serve the public interest through the president.

In answer to a question on a link between the security situation and the negotiations and the extent of progress made in these negotiations, Sham'un said: I believe that the progress may be slow, but my personal feeling is that progress will be made and that, eventually, there will be no differences. We will agree on things that will ensure Lebanese interests and Israel will obtain some of the things it is asking for, while our relations with the Arab countries will remain normal.

Asked if there are any new developments regarding the Syrian and Palestinian withdrawals, Sham'un said: This will take place at a second stage and, of course, they are axiomatic.

REPORTAGE ON CURRENT SITUATION IN NORTH

Coordination Committee Meets

NC071207 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] A meeting was held before noon today at former Prime Minister Rashid Karami's house attended by members of the Northern Coordination Committee. The deteriorating situation in Tripoli and the need to abide by the cease-fire decision were discussed at the meeting.

We heard a short while ago that the intensity of the clashes in Tripoli has eased, and only sporadic bursts of gunfire and some sniper fire could still be heard.

Agreement To End Fighting

NC081229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] A meeting was held in Tripoli today attended by former Prime Ministers Rashid Karami and Amin al-Hafitz, Deputy 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, Faruq al-Muqaddam, political official of Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah 'Abdallah Bayti, and a representative of the Jundallah organization in another attempt to put a final and decisive end to the ordeal of the city and its inhabitants, which reached its peak in the past few days.

The meeting ended at noon. The political official of Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, 'Abdallah Bayti, delivered the following statement: The conferees discussed the existing conditions in Tripoli. There was agreement on the need to end the fighting and the suffering. Agreement was reached on the following:

1. To consolidate the cease-fire immediately.

2. To withdraw all the gunmen, particularly the aliens, and the heavy weapons from the city, and to consider the method of violence as condemned by everyone.

3. To have the official authority undertake the security task in the city.

4. To work for the imposition of national sovereignty in the city.

Ash-Sha'ar Arrives in Tripoli

NC090848 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The director general of the internal security forces, Hisham ash-Sha'ar, arrived in Tripoli at 0930 [0730 GMT] today to implement the security measures agreed upon during the meeting held in Damascus yesterday between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan.

Upon his arrival in Tripoli, Ash-Sha'ar chaired a meeting of the commander and officers of the gendarmerie force in the north. He will later meet with the governor of Ash-Shamal, Iskandar Ghibril, and then will go to the residence of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami to meet with him and with the members of the coordination committee. At 1100, he will hold a meeting with the organizations which are not playing an active role as members of the coordination committee. Ash-Sha'ar will then try to implement the required measures in cooperation with Syrian Deputy Chief of Staff Major General 'Ali Aslan, who is presently in Tripoli.

Ash-Sha'ar on Cease-Fire

NC091805 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Regarding the situation in Tripoli, the official efforts which were exerted in the past 48 hours, particularly the visit to Damascus yesterday by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and his contacts with Syrian officials, and the visit to Tripoli today by the director general of the internal security forces, Hisham ash-Sha'ar, have produced positive results which are expected to see light this evening. In the forefront of these results, which have been strengthened by an agreement among the city's leaderships, are a firm cease-fire and the withdrawal of armed men and heavy weapons from the areas which have been the scene of recent clashes, as well as the assumption later of all security responsibilities in Tripoli by the internal security forces.

As a matter of fact, a National News Agency correspondent has reported that the first internal security forces' patrol went to a Tripoli quarter at 1630 today following a telephone contact between [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Commander of the Northern Gendarmerie Company Lieutenant Colonel Mahdi al-Haj Hasan. The National News Agency correspondent said Karami told Lt Col al-Haj Hasan that the contacts that were held with all parties resulted in the withdrawal of armed men from the areas of clashes.

Director General of the internal security forces Hisham ash-Sha'ar left Tripoli this afternoon for Beirut at the end of the mission that Prime Minister al-Wazzan entrusted to him. Al-Wazzan is scheduled to meet with Ash-Sha'ar this evening to be briefed on the results of his meetings and contacts in Tripoli today.

Prior to his departure from Tripoli, Ash-Sha'ar made a statement to the National News Agency's correspondent in which he expounded on the results of the meetings he held today with Prime Minister Karami and the city's officials and leaders. He also answered a number of questions. Ash-Sha'ar said:

[Begin recording] I have come to Tripoli at the request of His Excellency Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to follow up the consultations he held in Damascus during his visit with President Hafiz al-Asad. I have met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and briefed him on the results that Prime Minister al-Wazzan reached. I have also contacted some functionaries in Tripoli and discussed the same topic.

I then met with [Syrian Deputy Chief of Staff] Major General 'Ali Aslan and discussed the situation in Tripoli. I received full understanding with Maj Gen Aslan on help for Tripoli and the security forces in any task they may ask for. I appeal to everyone in Tripoli to help the security forces to perform their tasks so that we can all help in restoring peace to this struggling city.

[Question] Has a date been set for the security forces to assume the security tasks in the areas of clashes?

[Answer] We are awaiting a cease-fire and the withdrawal of heavy arms so that the security forces can begin their tasks.

[Question] Has a date been set for starting this?

[Answer] Chairman of the Coordination Committee His Excellency Prime Minister Rashid Karami said efforts are underway to establish a cease-fire once and for all as well as to withdraw all heavy arms. I understand that this may be completed this evening. If everything goes well, the security forces will assume their duties tomorrow in the (?hot) areas.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] In fact, Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan has told me that President Hafiz al-Asad has given him full powers to give utmost help to the security forces and all that they may ask for to restore life to normal in Tripoli.

[Question] Are we going to ask him to withdraw the heavy arms and armed men?

[Answer] Yes, he showed me full understanding regarding this issue. Frankly speaking, I met with full understanding.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] I maintain that if the people do not respond to the security forces, they cannot perform their tasks. We have sent two platoons from the security forces and we may send other elements, if we meet with understanding from the armed men and the heavy arms are withdrawn, and a cease-fire is observed. The security forces, however, cannot perform their tasks if the firing and the presence of heavy arms continue.

[Question] [Words indistinct] in light of your contacts today in your second trip to Tripoli, do you feel that a way out has been found for this problem?

[Answer] I maintain that this problem is political. I will not say that the political problem is over, because you know that the situation in Tripoli is linked with the general situation in Lebanon. There are Syrian as well as foreign forces in Lebanon. The withdrawal of any forces is contingent upon the solution of the Lebanese problem. Is it possible for the Syrian forces to withdraw while the Israeli forces are present in Lebanon?

[question indistinct]

[Answer] We have nothing to do with this. The security forces will not enter in the presence of any forces. We will only accept legitimate Lebanese forces, that is, the Lebanese security forces. In the presence of Palestinian or any foreign forces, we will not enter.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] Yes, I will meet him today. [end recording]

Ash-Sha'ar Briefs Al-Wazzan

NC091813 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received in his home this evening Director General of the internal security forces Hisham ash-Sha'ar, who returned from Tripoli, where he supervised the assumption by the internal security forces of the tasks of stopping the clashes. Ash-Sha'ar briefed Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the arrangements being implemented today, which will be completed tomorrow morning, Monday, to consolidate security and stability in Tripoli.

Palestinians Given Role

NC100655 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0545 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] While the negotiations in Khaldah will focus on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, the efforts exerted in Tripoli [in northern Lebanon] have resulted in the security task in the areas of the clashes being handed over to the armed Palestinian groups. According to reports received this morning, the Lebanese internal security forces have withdrawn from the areas of the clashes after their patrols yesterday tried to take up positions in the agreed places. However, the Lebanese security forces were surprised to see Palestinian forces occupying the positions and conducting patrols. Upon contacting the Tripoli Coordination Committee, its sources reported that the Tripoli committee has decided to entrust the Palestinian gunmen, as an alternative force, with the task of pulling out the Lebanese gunmen and taking up positions in the combat areas and conducting patrols, and to give them authority to open fire on any violator or opposer, as the sources of the Tripoli Coordination Committee put it.

It has been learned that a group of the Tripoli inhabitants has rejected this solution, which consecrates the Palestinian occupation of parts of Tripoli while the Syrian occupation is in control of the other parts.

ISRAELIS ADVANCE TOWARD SOUTHERN BEIRUT SUBURB

NC091738 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The Israeli forces advanced toward the At-Tiru area in the southern suburb today. The security sides linked this movement with the attacks the Israeli forces were subjected to in the past few days.

Reports said yesterday that the U.S. Marines prevented the Israelis from advancing toward the southern suburb.

AFP Report

NC091310 Paris AFP in English 1252 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 9 (AFP) -- U.S. Marines from the multinational peace keeping force here yesterday prevented Israeli troops from moving into the southern Beirut suburb of Burj al-Barajinah, two newspapers reported here today.

AN-NAHAR and AS-SAFIR, quoting Shi'ite sources, said the Israelis tried twice yesterday to move into the area, advancing on two fronts. But Marines stationed near the airport surrounded them and brought in reinforcements by helicopters, which then continued to patrol the sector.

The reports said that last Thursday, the U.S. commander warned the Israelis not to intrude into areas under Marine control after the Israeli troops carried out a thorough search of the science faculty.

The Israelis withdrew from Beirut in late September in the aftermath of the massacre by Phalangist militia of Palestinian civilians in refugee camps in the western sector of the city.

The latest Israeli troop actions in areas controlled by the multinational force, which includes French and Italian troops, follow attacks Thursday and Friday on two Israeli military vehicles south of Beirut.

Lebanese sources said two Israelis were killed in the incidents while Israeli military spokesmen admit to 23 soldiers wounded.

SYRIANS SAID TO SET UP SAM BASES CLOSE TO BORDER

NC101044 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut have reported that the Syrian authorities have established bases for a number of SAM-5's in the (Dayr al-'Asha'ir) area, the shooting club area, and some heights and hills close to Lebanon and that most of these bases are operated by Soviet experts seen in these areas in their Soviet military uniforms.

AL-JUMAYYIL ASKS URQUHART FOR UNIFIL EXTENSION

NC072016 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening chaired a meeting with Brian Urquhart, deputy UN secretary general for political affairs, attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, negotiations coordinator Ghazzan Tuwayni, and UNIFIL commander in the south William Callaghan. During the meeting, they discussed the issue of renewing the UNIFIL mandate in light of its expiration on 19 January and the details of broadening its tasks and expanding its deployment in the south.

Lebanon has set forth its views on this issue and it clearly asked for the extension of the mandate for 6 months with some flexibility in increasing its powers and the area of its deployment.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER MEETS LEADERS

JN081134 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived in Damascus this morning, while PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left for Amman.

Talks between Lebanese Prime Minister al-Wazzan and his Syrian counterpart began immediately upon the former's arrival. Our correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris reports on the talks:

[Begin Faris recording] Syrian-Lebanese talks began immediately upon Al-Wazzan's arrival. Al-Wazzan, accompanied by Dr al-Kasm, left for the guest palace where he began his official talks.

In a press statement Al-Wazzan said: This is not the first time that we have visited Damascus. We are twin neighboring countries which have common sufferings and aspirations. We are now living through a new tribulation of which the world at large and our brothers in Syria are well aware. It is normal at this critical stage, particularly in this trial we are suffering on our Lebanese land, to consult with our Syrian brothers, especially since we are preoccupied with very painful, indeed tragic events which are taking place in the capital of northern Lebanon. This fact compels us to achieve more cohesion so that we can emerge from this tribulation, both in the capital of the north and elsewhere in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Damascus for Amman this morning to meet with King Husayn. I have learned that Yasir 'Arafat will leave Amman for the USSR on Tuesday on an official visit. [end recording]

Talks between Dr al-Kasm and Al-Wazzan ended and the two prime ministers left a short while ago for the Syrian presidential palace where President Hafiz al-Asad received his Lebanese guest some 15 minutes ago. The meeting is still underway and is attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Al-Asad-Al-Wazzan Meeting

JN081714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-A[illegible] received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at 1215 today. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon. Al-Wazzan briefed the leaders on the negotiations and discussions on the Zionist occupation of Lebanon.

President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that Syria, as always, will stand by Lebanon. It believes that the Zionist enemy must not impose conditions on Lebanon or achieve gains as result of its invasion of Lebanon. During the meeting it was asserted that the security incidents in Tripoli were part of a foreign plot to serve the aims of the enemy in Lebanon and to weaken Lebanon's efforts to end the Israeli invasion. It was agreed that the internal security forces should exercise their task of consolidating security in cooperation with the Tripoli coordination committee. The president affirmed Syria's willingness to provide all possible help, including intervention by the Arab Deterrent Forces if necessary.

Shafiq al-Wazzan left Damascus at 1630 this evening following a brief visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, prime minister; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; several ministers, and the chief of protocol at the prime ministry. Upon his arrival at the airport, Al-Wazzan shook hands with those who came to see him off. The Lebanese and Syrian national anthems were played as Dr al-Kasm and Al-Wazzan reviewed the honor guard. Dr al-Kasm embarced Al-Wazzan as he left for Beirut.

Al-Wazzan Interview

NC081841 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] The events in the city of Tripoli were the main topic of the discussions which Prime Minister Shaifq al-Wazzan today held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The discussions centered on ways of ending the painful clashes which have been taking place in the capital of the north for some weeks and which have killed and wounded dozens, destroyed houses and establishments, and compelled thousands of citizens to leave their homes. In addition, the discussions dealt with the course of the current negotiations among Lebanon, Israel and the United States on the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon and the stages through which these negotiations have proceeded.

At approximately 1300 President al-Asad received Prime Minister al-Wazzan in the presence of Prime Minister al-Kasm and Minister Khaddam. During their meeting, which ended at 1530, they studied the situation in Tripoli and the progress of the negotiations on the withdrawals from Lebanon. The meeting was interrupted for lunch, following which the discussions were resumed to continue the debate of the issues which President al-Asad and Prime Minister al-Wazzan had discussed.

It was agreed that director general of the internal security forces, Hisham ash-Sha'ar, will go to Tripoli tomorrow to meet with [Syrian Deputy Defense Minister] Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan and implement the security measures agreed upon.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Beirut airport at 1730. Al-Wazzan went to the Presidential Palace to meet with President Shaykh al-Jumayyil to brief him on the outcome of his discussions in Damascus.

It has been learned that Prime Minister al-Wazzan sensed the satisfaction of President al-Asad and Syrian officials with the sound Lebanese stance on the current negotiations and the need to adhere to this stance.

President al-Asad asked Prime Minister al-Wazzan to convey his greetings to President Amin al-Jumayyil. He expressed hope that cooperation will continue to save Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

Before leaving Damascus, Prime Minister al-Wazzan made the following statement:

[Begin recording] Actually, we are facing the most difficult conditions because of this bitter reality we are living in Lebanon. Undoubtedly, the Syrian stand supporting all our demands for full withdrawal is a praiseworthy one. We are confident that this stand will help us overcome the difficulties we are confronting.

Our conditions are very difficult, as I have said. They require all of us in Lebanon and in the entire region to adopt a unified stand in order to confront this stage. This is also an appeal by us to all nations, both friendly and unfriendly, by virtue of their UN membership, their linkage with us through the UN Charter and by virtue of their commitment to what is decided by international bodies, particularly the UN Security Council, which resolved that the withdrawal from Lebanon should be unrestricted and unconditional. We appeal to them all to stand on our side -- the side of right -- so that our dear homeland can emerge from its present ordeal.

What is important is what I have heard from his excellency the president about constant efforts and arrangements, which we hope will continue to bear fruit, in the dear city of Tripoli, which is also groaning from the evil of the things happening there which in themselves are a tragedy. It is impermissible that these things should continue, particularly when we are passing through a difficult stage during which we are confronting an Israeli occupation.

All the attrition taking place in areas in Lebanon must stop so that this wounded country, which has been suffering from this ordeal for many years, can face this stage as one united rank to get rid of the greater tragedy. By that I mean the Israeli occupation.

[Question] Has an agreement been reached regarding specific arrangements in Tripoli?

[Answer] The arrangements have actually started. However, it is necessary to crystallize certain matters. When we return to Lebanon, we will translate these matters into deeds, God willing.

[Question] The discussions, Mr Prime Minister, have undoubtedly dealt with the negotiations and the process of the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon. Is there anything specific in this regard?

[Answer] I said at the beginning that we are confident about the Syrian stand, particularly on the question of the withdrawals. This withdrawal could take place at the appropriate time. I have often said we do not place this withdrawal on the level of what we are now suffering from. We demand that Israel make a major withdrawal. We are a people who want to assume their own responsibilities on all levels. Therefore, when we speak about withdrawals, we want to achieve them ultimately. There is, however, a priority in this regard on which we focus all our attention. I mean the Israeli withdrawal.

[Question] What in your opinion, Mr Prime Minister, is required from the Lebanese in general at this stage through which our fraternal country is passing?

[Answer] The Lebanese know themselves and they know their duty now. They are proceeding, God be praised, toward unity and solidarity to confront this delicate stage through which they are passing.

[Question] There may be, Mr Prime Minister, a declared Syrian stand on the negotiations taking place in Lebanon. Is there any confirmation of this stand?

[Answer] We have declared our stand since the beginning of these negotiations. It is a stand of adherence to our right to independence and our right to sovereignty over our territory. Several UN Security Council resolutions have consolidated this right. The latest are Resolutions 508 and 509, which demand Israel's unrestricted and unconditional withdrawal. The world sides with us to bolster the implementation of these two resolutions. We ourselves stand together because right is on our side and the one who has right on his side, as the proverb goes, is king. If we have fewer cards in our hands with which we confront our negotiations with the Israeli side and the American side, we still hold the card of right, which will remain the absolute power. We will never abandon this card.

[Question] Concerning the evaluation of today's visit, is it possible to know its positive aspect?

[Answer] We consider ourselves to be in a fraternal country. We consider our mere presence in a fraternal country as something positive.

[Question] Some press sources spoke about the process of holding a summit between the two presidents. Has this topic been discussed?

[Answer] There was no such discussion, but what I do know is that such a meeting is not ruled out at any time, but that it will be fixed according to the dictates of the interests on which both presidents agree. They agree, as far as I know, and they will meet at the appropriate time.

[Question] Following the Arabs' failure to save Lebanon during the Israeli incursion, what is required from the Arabs to support Lebanon during the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations?

[Answer] You are asking a question which includes the answer. The Arabs are required to support each other so as to support Lebanon. [end recording]

Concerning today's discussions [Syrian] Prime Minister al-Kasm was asked: Could it be said that the Syrian stand is one of support for Lebanon, particularly regarding Tripoli? Prime Minister al-Kasm answered:

[Begin recording] Brother Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan (?answered) this question. I am surprised by this question because Syria has always been, is and always will be with Lebanon in its external and internal ordeals, in its resistance to the Israeli aggression and in tackling its domestic problems. Syria is concerned about all internal events in Tripoli and elsewhere. Syria supports Lebanon in all its stands on the Israeli aggression. [end recording]

OFFICIAL RECEIVES POLISH TRADE MINISTER

JN091625 Damscus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 9 Jan (SANA) -- 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received here today Polish Foreign Trade Minister Tadeusz Nestorowicz and his delegation currently visiting Syria. The two sides discussed economic relations between the two countries and means to promote them, in addition to the economic projects being implemented in Syria in cooperation with Poland. They also reviewed the work of the joint Syrian-Polish committee for economic affairs.

BEGIN SAYS HUSAYN WELCOME AT NEGOTIATIONS

TA071235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that Israel will welcome King Husayn if he decides to join the negotiations on the peace process in the area. In a talk with U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas after his return from Amman where he met with King Husayn, the prime minister said that the stopping of settlements as a condition for negotiations is unacceptable to him. Israel, Mr Begin said, is no stranger in Judaea and Samaria and its policy is not to hurt any Arab resident. The settlements are a central factor in the security of Israel. Asked whether it would not be worthwhile to freeze the settlements for 3 months in order to win peace with Jordan, the prime minister said that this is not so simple, and you cannot compare what happened during the negotiations on the peace agreement with Egypt with these negotiations.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that Senator Tsongas did not bring any message from King Husayn.

In an answer to a question by our correspondent Gid'on Remez, the U.S. senator said that Husayn refrained from committing himself about negotiations with Israel prior to his meeting at the end of the week with Yasir 'Arafat. Husayn noted that he is ready to open negotiations if the other Arab sides will agree to it after an agreement is reached in Lebanon.

In an answer to another question Tsongas said that Syria, which serves the Soviet Union, is an obstacle to peace in Lebanon and in the Middle East and it should not be allowed to veto an agreed upon arrangement [hesder muskam] in Lebanon. He said that if Syria refuses to evacuate its forces he will not oppose a joint action of the other sides concerned in its order to force it to evacuate.

IDF ANNOUNCES 21 WOUNDED SOUTH OF BEIRUT

TA071833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Twenty-one Israeli soldiers have been hurt in an ambush in a southern suburb of Beirut. The Israeli army spokesman said that most of the soldiers were slightly ingured when their bus was fired on by bazookas and light weapons south of Kafr Sil. An Israeli unit gave chase to the attackers, killing one of them. According to Christian radio stations in Lebanon, the attack happened as the bus was travelling between the Christian neighborhood of (Hadaf) and the druze village of Ash-Shuwayfat, about 5 km southeast of Beirut city.

ELEVEN HURT IN ATTACK ON BUS IN TEL AVIV

TA081810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] In Tel Aviv, 11 persons, including 2 children, were wounded about 1 and 1/2 hours ago in an explosion on a bus at the corner of Shqen and Bar-Yohay Streets. Two persons were moderately wounded, and nine were slightly wounded. Presently, there are two versions as to the cause of the explosion. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huler reports that an unidentified person threw two Soviet-made handgrenades at the bus, and that one of them penetrated the bus and exploded.

The other version, reported by an ITIM correspondent, is that a bomb in a plastic bag was put under one of the seats at the back of the bus. The wounded have been hospitalized at Ikhilov and Hadassah hospitals. The bus was traveling from the central bus station to Rishon Leziyyon. Security forces have sealed off the area.

Abu Nidal Group 'Responsible'

TA100535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] An Arab-language newspaper in London says that the terrorist organization led by Abu Nidal has claimed responsibility for the grenade attack on the bus in Tel Aviv, and warned that this was the beginning of further raids inside Israel. The AL-'ARAB daily newspaper said it received a phone call from Nidal's organization, saying one of its armed units attacked a bus in the central bus station in Tel Aviv with handgrenades while troops were boarding it to return to their barracks in Netanya, north of the city, after weekend leave. The bus driver and the passengers on board -- 11 civilians -- were injured in the grenade attack on Saturday night. Two people are still in hospital.

CABINET MEETS; LEBANON SITUATION DISCUSSED

Session Communique

TA091119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1109 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Cabinet communique as read by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor in Jerusalem on 9 January January -- recorded]

[Text] The prime minister officially informed the Cabinet at its session today that Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Mr Simha Ehrlich left for the United States for open heart surgery. The operation was a success. The Cabinet sent Minister Ehrlich a wish for a speedy recovery. The industry and commerce minister will substitute for the agriculture minister during his absence.

The Cabinet today heard reports on political and security matters from the foreign minister, the defense minister, the director general of the Foreign Ministry and military and intelligence personnel. The reports discussed the visit by President Navon to the United States, the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon and the security situation in Lebanon. The Cabinet was also briefed on the attack on the bus in Tel Aviv last night. The Cabinet held a debate after the briefings. That is the end of the Cabinet communique.

To Discuss Lebanon 'Stability'

TA091221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The Cabinet will soon discuss events in Lebanon. Our political correspondent reports that here Begin complied with a request raised by his deputy, David Levi. In the weekly Cabinet session, Minister Levi said that the ministers must examine the stability of the Amin al-Jumayyil administration, Syria's involvement in Lebanon, and the short and long-term impact of the Soviet involvement there. He said that clearly the situation in Lebanon no longer resembles the one we saw at the outbreak of the war or when the battles subsided.

It is impossible to decide on a comprehensive solution of the Lebanese problem only on the basis of what takes place round the negotiating table. The situation in Lebanon requires an in-depth discussion of its political and military aspects. Therefore, Minister Levi suggested that the ministers be provided with updated material on all these matters.

Ministers on Khaldah Talks

TA091354 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat suggested at the Cabinet meeting today that the Israeli delegation not be sent to the Khaldah talks before Israel receives Lebanon's answer to Morris Draper's proposal on the formulation of the agenda. Israel received a public slap on the face, Ben-Porat said, when last Monday the Lebanese Government rejected a proposal that its own delegation brought to the negotiations and after that proposal was already approved by Israel.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i also criticized the manner in which Israel is conducting the talks, saying that the negotiations are following Middle East negotiations practices and should be conducted likewise.

Our political correspondent notes that following the precedent in Khaldah last Monday, it was decided that the Cabinet would not discuss Draper's proposal and that Israel would express its opinion only after its hears Lebanon's reaction to this proposal.

Radio Reviews Meeting

TA091556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The Cabinet will shortly hold a special discussion about events in Lebanon and about the changes occurring in the situation following the Peace for Galilee operation. Thus the Cabinet accepted Deputy Prime Minister Levi's proposal during its meeting today. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports:

[Begin Schiffer recording] The discussion of events in Lebanon has already become the major topic of the Cabinet's weekly meetings. The ministers brought no news today either. While the talks are still centering on the agenda, there is increased terrorist activity.

Mordekhay Tzipori sounded impatient when he suggested that the situation be discussed since, he says, our continued stay there is claiming victims. What are you suggesting? one of the ministers asked. At this stage I would not give advice on security affairs, the communications minister replied. Some of Tzipori's colleagues see in his remarks a hint about his future aspirations.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi also analyzed the recent events there and proposed that the Cabinet examine the degree of stability of the Amin al-Jumayyil regime, Syria's involvement in Lebanon and the significance of Soviet involvement both in the short and long term.

Levi says it is clear that the situation in Lebanon no longer resembles the situation just before the war or that prevailing when the fighting stopped. One cannot develop an overall solution to the Lebanese problem solely according to events around the negotiating table.

Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat said that we are conducting negotiations with an abstract body since there is no government in Lebanon. He believes that ways for solving the Lebanon crisis should be checked out with Syria.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hinted that a breakthrough is expected in the talks. The Americans are now showing understanding for Israel's demands [derishot] that the normalization issue be included on the agreed agenda for the talks.

Ben-Porat suggested that the Israeli delegation not leave for Khaldah tomorrow as long as the Lebanese Government does not give an official answer to the U.S. proposal on the agenda issue. We have been slapped on the face once and we should not turn the other cheek now, he said.

Minister Yosef Burg said: I suggest that the steering committee of the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations decide on this. The prime minister and Minister Zvulun Hammer said that the Cabinet plenum should decide on this issue and send the Israeli representatives to the talks, and so indeed it was.

There were 13 terrorist acts in Lebanon last week, and the ministerial committee on security affairs is to discuss this sensitive issue.

As previously mentioned, there was no satisfaction among Cabinet members today. Several ministers said after the meeting that precious time had been wasted, since the so-called achievements to be reached in the coming days could have been made 3 weeks ago.

More about the verbal exchanges in the Cabinet meeting today: Mordekhay Tzipori attacked the chief of staff's remark that the Cabinet had never decided not to go beyond the 48-km zone in Lebanon. Citing Cabinet meeting minutes, Tzipori proved the opposite. The prime minister reacted by saying there was some misunderstanding on this entire affair.

The foreign minister also briefed the Cabinet about President Navon's talks with President Ronald Reagan. Finally, the Cabinet approved two foreign service appointments. A Liberal Party veteran activist from Haifa, Tzvi Zimmerman, was appointed today as Israel's ambassador to New Zealand.

The prime minister told the Cabinet about the open heart surgery his deputy and agriculture minister, Simha Ehrlich, underwent. The operation was successfully performed in the United States. The ministers sent their wishes for speedy recovery to their colleague and appointed Gid'on Pat as acting agriculture minister. [end recording]

U.S. PROPOSALS 'MAY BE BASIS' FOR LEBANON AGENDA

TA091622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that in a consultation the foreign and defense ministers held with the delegation to the talks with Lebanon, it was decided that the U.S. proposals may be the basis for an agreed agenda, provided some changes are introduced to them.

At the Cabinet session today, the pattern [tzurah] of the talks was criticized, with Minister Moda'i comparing the negotiations to an oriental market where people bargain for camels. Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat suggested that the Israeli delegation should not go to Khaldah until Beirut has clearly replied to the U.S. proposals about the agenda. Ben-Porat and Yosef Burg expressed concern about the latest terrorist attacks in Lebanon and the prime minister decided that the ministerial committee on security affairs should discuss the matter. It was reported that there were 13 terrorist attacks in Lebanon last week.

EXTENSION OF UNIFIL MANDATE BY 2 MONTHS WANTED

TA091639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] When the UN Security Council convenes to extend UNIFIL's mandate Israel will try to convince it that it no longer makes sense to keep the force in southern Lebanon and that the force must deploy north of the security area that Israel is demanding. UN Deputy Secretary General Brian Urquhart arrived in Jerusalem today and conferred on this matter with senior Foreign Ministry officials. Tomorrow he will confer with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

At the Cabinet session today the foreign minister said that Israel seeks to extend UNIFIL's mandate by 2 months rather than by 6 months, as the United Nations wishes. Nonetheless, after the Cabinet session, government sources said that if the Security Council approved the original plan anyway Israel would not be able to object to it.

VIEWS ON DRAPER PROPOSALS, HUSAYN MOVES

TA090642 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0620 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel -- recorded]

[Text] Last weekend, Jerusalem refused to describe Draper's proposal as a breakthrough. If Israel shows excess enthusiasm in embracing the U.S. version this may arouse some ill feelings both in Beirut and in Damascus. In addition to this, Israel already got the cold shower last week when it rushed to approve a proposal raised by the Lebanese delegation and then later found out that the proposal was rejected by the Lebanese Government.

So Jerusalem will issue no public statement today on the new version. It is first waiting for Lebanon's response. If tomorrow in Khaldah Lebanon announces that the proposal is acceptable to it, it looks as though the Israeli delegation will also express its acceptance of it. Political elements have argued that Israel's insistence on the inclusion of normalization affairs on the agenda has proved beneficial. The problem is that the suggestion Draper raised on Tuesday is astonishingly close to the Israeli proposal.

Another issue that will be on the political agenda is the question Jerusalem asked last week, whether King Husayn would come to the negotiating table and if so, when. Moreover, the question was what kind of political price would be demanded of Israel.

Even after the visits of Israel and Jordan by former diplomat Quandt and incumbent Senator Tsongas, government circles in Jerusalem have nonetheless said that there is still no substantial proof that Husayn really wants to join the peace talks. The two Americans' remarks were first and foremost attributed to the realm of personal impressions. Quandt and Tsongas did not bring with them any message, open or otherwise, from the leaders of the Amman administration.

On Friday, Paul Tsongas visited the prime minister, and Menahem Begin told him: If Husayn wants to join the talks, great, we will be very happy, but we will not accept preconditions. As for the possibility that Jordan might ask that settlement activity be frozen, the prime minister said: Settlement in Judaea and Samaria is not illegal, and such a precondition shows lack of deep thinking regarding an issue which as far as Israel is concerned is linked to its future and national security.

POLITICAL SOURCES CITED ON OVERTURES TO USSR

TA090504 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- recorded]

[Text] Authoritative political sources have confirmed that recently Israel has been making an effort in both direct and indirect ways to establish a dialogue with the Soviet leadership. Ever since Yuriy Andropov assumed office, Jerusalem has been trying to signal Moscow that the dialogue could contribute to the peace process in the area. The Romanian president possibly plays an important role in this mission. It has been learned that even when word got through of increased Soviet involvement in Syria, an attempt was nonetheless made to transmit a certain message to Moscow.

This is part of the overall moves over the removal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. Jerusalem is presently waiting for Lebanon's reaction to the suggestions raised by Morris Draper, whose gist is the inclusion of the details of the subjects for talks -- as the two countries had wished.

Draper conferred with several personalities here over the weekend, among them MK's Olmert and Milo. It emerges from these talks that the United States is currently showing understanding for Israel's demands that the agreed-upon agenda for the talks also include the matter of normalization. There is no agreement [haskama] over the role of UNIFIL in the area. The United States suggests that they would in the future be entrusted with supervising and guarding the Lebanon refugee camps. In Morris Draper's opinion, this is the only way for the PLO to agree to leave Lebanon.

The foreign minister is also expected to brief the Cabinet today on the conversation held by the U.S. President with President Navon. President Reagan began the conversation by saying that he is perturbed by the spreading notion in Israel that Israeli-U.S. relations are strained.

As for the purpose of his Middle East plan, he said that he was trying to convince the parties that it is possible to reach peace in the area on the basis of the principle of peace in return for territories. President Reagan got the impression from his conversations with Husayn that the monarch, too, is interested in reaching a stable peace in the area. Husayn shares the U.S. position on the incorporation of the PLO in the talks, and he said: We will head the delegation, which will include Palestinians, and inhabitants of the territories who are not members of the PLO.

Political sources have praised the manner in which President Navon presented the positions on which there is agreement in Israel.

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON TALKS, U.S. RELATIONS

TA071752 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interviewed by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat, Shlomo Naqdimon, and 'Oz Frankel in the IDF radio studio -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ben-Porat] Mr Minister, the press is heralding a chance for -- I am afraid to say it -- a breakthrough, that is, some progress in the negotiations with Lebanon by way of -- so we write in the newspapers -- a formula that was supposedly submitted by the U.S. delegation. Is this so?

[Answer] There are chances throughout all of the negotiations. However, we are encountering difficulties which have one cause: The pan-Arab pressure on Lebanon not to make the only decision that will truly enable a breakthrough and guarantee a complete security settlement -- normal relations with Israel.

Lebanon must determine that it will decide what is good for it, and not what is being forced upon it. We know that most of the people in Lebanon, and not only the Christains, are convinced that Lebanon's interest and future require a settlement of peace and security with Israel. If it does not make this decision -- if Lebanon continues to yield to the Arab countries' pressure -- nothing will change in Lebanon, or in its relations with Israel, and there is no way to be sure that the terrorist organizations will not return to the border and the affair will start all over again. Therefore, in conclusion, the way to a settlement can open up any day -- the Lebanese Government only has to take the daring step of deciding what Lebanese interests require.

[Question] If you told us more concrete things about the negotiations themselves, the formulas and so on, you would disturb the negotiations. And even we, as journalists, do not want to do that. Nevertheless, are we at least justified in writing on Friday that there is a chance of progress?

[Answer] There is definitely a chance, because we know what the Lebanese think. The problem is that they have to decide to implement what they think.

[Question] And the Americans are helping them?

[Answer] In our view, the Americans must help more.

[Question] Mr Minister, it seems that Lebanon is still divided, torn by conflict, and speaks with many voices -- it is not all that clear who indeed rules the country, if anyone does. Can Lebanon in this situation be a serious negotiating partner? Is there someone to talk with in Lebanon?

[Answer] We must conduct negotiations with the Lebanese president and his government. We have no other partner for negotiations. It may very well be that if we reach a positive conclusion in these negotiations, this will cause the government in Lebanon to become more stable and in a better position to call the shots in Lebanon.

[Question] In spite of outside pressure -- from Syria, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries?

[Answer] Lebanon's participation in the Israeli-Arab conflict was always forced upon it. It must, for once, decide to break free of this coercion. This will increase its independence and unity of forces, and I am certain that it will boost support for the government by many additional elements in Lebanon, if they see that the government by many additional elements in Lebanon, if they see that the government is daring, aspires to independence and is more independent.

[Question] Mr Shamir, there is an inevitable question here. What became of the document that was drafted by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Al-Jumayyil's confidant, and about which it is known that the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Eli Rubinstein, worked long hours on its formulation?

[Answer] It is clear that that document had been approved by the Lebanese president. However, the situation in Lebanon is such that that approval is not manifest in the open negotiations today, because of too much consideration for outside pressure.

[Question] When you speak about pressure, are you also referring to the delicate balance in the government? Much is said of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's negative influences.

[Answer] This pressure too, from within by representatives of the Sunni part of the Lebanese populace, is influenced by and expresses the external pressure. However, we know that many of the Lebanese Muslims favor peaceful relations with Israel. They see such relations as Lebanon's only way out of the labyrinth, the hell in the country.

[Question] But their influence is not substantial [nikeret]?

[Answer] There are clashes between the various influences, and I believe that one decisive decision would change this situation for the better.

[Question] As to the external pressure, you tell Lebanon -- and we all think this -- you have to break free of the Arab countries' pressure. But if they do so, would they not go bankrupt? This is one of their claims. Saudi Arabia would withdraw its funds from the banks in Lebanon. What would happen to them?

[Answer] Of course, this not a simple matter. But we think that those are more threats than concrete dangers to Lebanon's economy. Lebanon's economy is quite strong -- this is surprising in view of all that country has gone through. But this is a fact -- that Lebanon's economy is firm and strong, its currency is strong, and the Arab countries need Lebanon.

Economically, Lebanon fulfills the most useful functions with respect to the various Arab countries. And I believe that a daring and courageous decision by the Lebanese Government would definitely put an end to this miserable situation, and eventually would largely free Lebanon from that pressure. The Arab states would adjust to a new situation, if they truly want to help Lebanon improve, repair and change its situation.

[Question] Mr Minister, earlier you mentioned the working paper that was reached in mid-December. In your view, did the early publications of the working paper harm the political moves, the progress in the negotiations?

[Answer] It is hard to say now, since generally we see today -- on the basis of our recent political experience -- that the difference between open and secret negotiations is only one of time, and only a short time at that. What is secret today is open after 1 or 2 days. Therefore, it does not make very much difference if something is concluded, agreed upon in secret negotiations, then tomorrow this must become open.

[Question] All the same, why was it necessary to publish the document, which the Lebanese, at that stage, did not want to publish?

[Answer] I do not know whether they wanted it published or not. I do not think that it would have substantially altered the negotiations.

[Question] Mr Shamir, I wanted to ask if the document that was drafted at the time with the Lebanese president's brother, Bashir al-Jumayyil, is similar to the one that was drafted recently by the defence minister and the Lebanese president's associate or with Al-Jumayyil himself. In the same context, I wanted to ask: Perhaps, at last, the veil can be lifted a bit -- not journalistically, since we have written reams about this, but from your point of view now -- about the meeting of the famous elite -- you, the prime minister and Sharon -- with the late Lebanese president.

[Answer] I do not want to get into the complex of the various documents. There were different drafts. And as you mentioned earlier these drafts were worked upon. In any case, I can say that there was no connection between the meeting you mentioned and this document.

[Question] What can you say about that meeting?

[Answer] I am not entitled to say anything.

[Question] Let's take a closer look at the U.S. role in the negotiations. Senior elements in Israel are casting doubt on the U.S. role in the negotiations, saying that the Americans are trying -- or at least tried -- to slow down the pace of the contacts, perhaps to prevent Israel from scoring too great a political achievement. Are you party to this criticism?

[Answer] I do not want to publicly enter here upon an analysis of the U.S. motives or policy, or an analysis of the various opinions sounded within the U.S. political system. However, there is no doubt that the United States wants a quick settlement, simply to be able to present a political achievement that will to a large extent be credited to the U.S. Government. Therefore I cannot say that they want to slow the negotiation's pace -- not that. However, if one speaks of conditions, the United States of course has its considerations and different interests -- including Arab and other interests. We think that if the United States wants a quick achievement, it must support our positions which, in fact, coincide with Lebanese interests, and in our view those of the free world in the region as well.

[Question] Will Philip Habib be coming to the area this week, if he comes at all?

[Answer] We have no clear reports about the date of his arrival, but Philip Habib is, after all, implementing the policy decided on in Washington. Therefore, the U.S. moves will be decided upon in Washington, not here.

[Question] Perhaps we can return to the previous issue for a moment. Nevertheless, in your opinion, is the United States trying to use Lebanon as a lever for advancing the Reagan plan?

[Answer] At this moment I do not feel this. There may be such intentions, but it is clear, it is clear to the U.S. Government that Israel will not give up its main demands [derishot] in these negotiations.

[Question] We are already moving away from the issue of the United States that we mentioned earlier. In view of criticism being leveled here in Israel by our administration circles about the Untied States, how would you, Mr Shamir, today describe Israeli-U.S. relations when it is known in the background that in the meantime there is a delay in the dispatch of aircraft they are supposed to be sending here, aircraft for the Air Force, nonimplementation on the matter of the exchange of information after the Peace for Galilee war, and also the existence, or the nonexistence, of the famous memorandum of understanding?

[Answer] Well, as to relations between us and the United States, their character has not changed. They are permanent and have already lasted for many years. These are relations that are as the Americans describe them: relations between allies and friends. However, as always, these relations are filled with difficulties, differences of opinion, various obstacles, because of the complications of the problems, because of the complications of the interests of both the United States and us. It is true that there are differences of opinion, but there is no need to exaggerate their importance. There is no need to say that these differences are at all capable of undermining the foundations of the relations between us. Those foundations are firm, have passed through all the U.S. administrations, and are common to all the governments of Israel. They are very old friendly relations, very intimate which, in the course of the years, have also overcome differences of opinion that come and go.

[Question] Does this report of Soviet missiles in Syria presage a deepening of Soviet infiltration of the area? Does this also presage a worsening, or deterioration, in the relations that do not formally exist between us and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] I do not think that any special deterioration should be seen in the area. Relations do not exist, and have not existed, between us and the Soviet Union. So, if we assume that one day the Soviet Union decides to change relations with us, this will make no difference and will not disturb us. I do not think that there is any additional step here in deepening Soviet infiltration, which is a permanent phenomenon and has been for scores of years in this area. It is only taking on different forms and different expressions with the upheavals of time and changes in the situation. It was clear that after what happened in the recent period, over the last few years, the Soviet Union would make some sort of move to strengthen its position in the area, that is to say, we would like the increase in this presence not to actually touch us.

[Question] Have we exhausted all possible ways to convince Moscow that it is worthwhile to renew relations with us?

[Answer] I think that, as far as it is possible to do something, we have done everything.

[Question] Perhaps we will move on, or rather remain in the area, and come to our king, King Husayn. Well, there are many reports coming from the direction of Washington, and Ambassador Lewis also spoke about this before he went as escort from the U.S. side for President Navon's visit to the United States, that Husayn might announce his joining the political process at the end of this month or the beginning of February. What interests us, as Israelis, is what reports we have on this matter?

[Answer] Well, here we are in the field of guesses and we can only speak about our position. I cannot say anything about King Husayn's position. Our position is clear: We would welcome his, King Husayn of Jordan, joining in the framework of the negotiations. Of course, this is the Camp David framework.

[Question] Regarding King Husayn, is a situation at least theoretically possible in which Israel would agree to a temporary freeze on settlements in order to bring the Jordanian king to the negotiating table?

[Answer] I can say that the government's position does not permit such a decision.

[Question] Perhaps we will diverge and ask you. Is it correct to say that the normalization in relations with Egypt is in a deep deadlock?

[Answer] There is no doubt that there is no normalization. There really is no normalization. There are cetain things that are valid, we can count them on the fingers of one hand, but almost all the signed agreements on matters of normalization between us and Egypt have not been kept by Egypt.

[Question] It seems that there are also very, very hard statements by Egyptian leaders. It appears to me that this was raised at the last Cabinet session and, if I am not mistaken, you tried to moderate the serious impression made. What is really hiding behind the hard statements by Egypt's leaders?

[Answer] Of course there are statements that do not presage well, and we would not like to hear them, but we know the reasoning behind all those statements. Today there is a trend in Egypt not to fully keep what the peace agreement between us and them requires, but to do every thing possible to come closer to the Arab world in order to reach the point where Egypt will again be the leader of the Arab World. That trend, which contradicts what the late President as-Sadat began, that trend does not fit in with either the spirit or the wording of the Camp David agreements. But we are not interested in a worsening of the situation. To this day Egypt is keeping the basic commitments it signed in the peace agreement, and it is saying so. Its representatives say and declare that they will, in the future too, keep the peace agreement.

[Question] Mr Shamir, what do we know about the PLO's attempts to return to Lebanon, to the same places from which the IDF expelled them?

[Answer] There are reports about this.

MINISTRIES CLASH OVER WEST BANK LAND ALLOCATION

TA081508 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] The establishment of settlements in the territories by entrepreneurs is exacerbating the differences of opinion between the Housing and Agriculture Ministries. The director general of the Housing Ministry told our correspondent Shalom Oren that the other ministry allocates land in violation of the rules and regulations, and that the setting up of settlements without services and regional plans results in the deception of many people. There is no Housing Ministry representative in the committee for land allocation in Judaea and Samaria in the Agriculture Ministry. This matter will be raised at the next meeting of the ministerial committee on settlement affairs.

POPULATING OF 5 NEW SETTLEMENT AREAS BEGINS

TA091524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The populating of five new settlement neighborhoods has now begun, with 180 families being added to neighborhoods in the settlements of Neve Zuf, Bet El, Kefar Adummim, Qedumim and Qarne Shomron. Infrastructure work as well as the building of public institutions by the Housing Ministry have been completed in all these neighborhoods.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the building of the settlements of Susiyya and Yaqin in the south of the Hebron Hills and the settlement of Gannim east of Janin recently began. Initially 25 housing units will be built in each of them. Ultimately, about 400 families will live in each of these settlements.

THREE NEW GOLAN SETTLEMENTS TO BE ESTABLISHED

TA091717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] A follow-up ministerial committee on settlement affairs has decided to improve roads on the Golan Heights and carry out the government's decision to establish three new settlements there to populate the area with 20,000 inhabitants. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the follow-up committee headed by Minister Yuval Ne'eman will ask the Treasury to unfreeze funds for paving three roads linking the areas of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza with areas within the green line.

COSTA RICAN PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER VISITS

Arrives 6 Jan

TA061849 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1845 GMT 6 Jan 83

["Defense Ministry Announcement" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Jerusalem, 6 Jan (ITIM) -- The Costa Rican public security minister, Mr Angel Edmundo Solano, and his wife arrived in Israel this evening. The visit comes in acceptance of an invitation by Defense Minister Mr Ari'el Sharon. The visiting minister will stay here a few days, will tour the country and will get to know its institutions.

This visit will constitute yet another expression of the traditional feelings of friendship between the people of Costa Rica and Israel, which began even before the establishment of the State of Israel.

Meets With Sharon

TA071018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] The public security minister of Costa Rica who is now visiting Israel met this morning with Minister Sharon to discuss the issue of strengthening the defense ties between the two countries. The visiting minister will visit, among other places, the Tadiran Company and the Israeli Aircraft Industry.

Sharon Comments on Aid

TA071315 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Costa Rica's Minister of Public Security Angel Edmundo Solano Caderon has arrived in Israel for a week-long visit at the invitation of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. The Costa Rican minister told reporter Allen Ben 'Ami that he was not here to seek weapons from Israel. He pointed out that his country has no army of its own and has good relations with its neighbors. Costa Rica is not interested in seeing an arms race in Latin America, but the minister said there is an internal problem of terrorism. At this morning's ceremony for the minister our reporter asked Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon about Israel's military connections with Latin American countries.

[Begin Sharon recording] Israel, being a poor country, is looking for friends and relations with every possible and friendly country around the world, and therefore we are making many efforts now in order to improve and to strengthen relations with different countries. No doubt when it comes to a country like Costa Rica -- is a democracy and a liberal country and a very friendly country to Israel traditionally for many many years -- the cooperation will not be limited to security questions but to every possible field of cooperation. [end recording]

EGYPTIAN DOCUMENT BLASTS ISRAELI PEACE VIOLATIONS

TA041158 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 83 p 6

[Report from Washington by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] "An explicit Israeli commitment to a timetable for withdrawing from Lebanon could pave the road to the reinstatement of the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv." This is stated in a document the Egyptian Embassy in Washington has been distributing among U.S. congressmen in the last few days. It presents to the congressmen, in no mild terms, the repeated Israeli breaches of the Camp David agreement and the peace treaty between the two countries," and rejects the Israeli charges of Egyptian violations.

Among other things, the document accuses Israel also of "totally rejecting any peace initiative, including that of President Reagan."

The paper says that it is being circulated in reaction to one distributed by Israel among congressmen, charging Egypt with violating the peace agreement. Israeli diplomats yesterday denied such reports, but confirmed that congressmen who left for tours of the Middle East were briefed and Israel's contentions against the Cairo government were voiced.

The Egyptian document, a copy of which has reached me, accuses Israel of violating "the spirit of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty" by the following: (1) The Knesset resolution on the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights; (2) The bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor; (3) The Israeli incursion into Lebanon; (4) The massacre in Sabra and Shatila "which was carried out with Israel's aid and with its full cognizance"; (5) The continued Israeli activity in the territories, and particularly the new settlements; (6) The rejection of all peace initiatives, including President Reagan's.

In the section on military violations, Egypt accuses Israel of 59 breaches between 25 April and 7 December 1982. This is based on reports from the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO]. Involved are penetration of the airspace above the "C" Zone in the Sinai. The Egyptian document says that "Israel's explanations for these breaches are unacceptable."

The document further lists "penetrations by Israeli jeeps and armored cars beyond the international borderline; the presence of two Israeli Navy ships at the mouth of the Strait of Tiran on 5 October 1982; penetration of Egyptian territorial waters in the Gulf of Al-'Aqabah without permission; limitations on the free movement of MFO observers in Zone 'D'."

Egypt also accuses Israel of refusing to participate in a 22 November discussion on the marking of 14 border points. A special chapter is dedicated to the Israeli breaches around Tabah, among them the presence of Israeli forces inside the disputed area, the opening of the "Sonesta" Hotel and its refusal to participate in deliberations aimed at resolving the dispute.

In rejecting Israel's contention on Egyptian violations, the Egyptian Embassy tells the U.S. congressmen that it "adheres to the spirit of its agreements with Israel."

As for Israel's charges of venomous attacks over the Egyptian media, the document says: "The media reflects the true sentiments of Egyptian public opinion towards the invasion of Lebanon and the Israeli violations of the peace agreement. The government cannot prevent such manifestations."

The Egyptians also argue that the Cairo press reports are not any more critical than those published around the world and even in Israel itself.

Regarding Israel's argument that Egypt has been violating the agreement militarily, the document states that "this contention is completely unfounded."

EGYPT'S GHALI ON IRAQ, JORDAN JOINING TALKS

TA091443 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jan 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Tamar Golan, 'Oded Granot, Ilan Kfir and Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpts] Iraq again hinted over the weekend that a shift has occurred in its position on possible negotiations with Israel. At the same time, Jordan is hinting that it will soon decide to join the peace process, whereas the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM is pressing the PLO to abandon its armed struggle against Israel.

The change in Iraq's position toward Israel stems from its intensive contacts with Egypt and the Fes summit resolutions, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali told MA'ARIV's Paris correspondent after his meeting with Iraqi vice president Tarif 'Aziz.

Ghali said that he was satisfied with his talk with 'Aziz, and that the Iraqi vice president was the one who decided to publicize their conversation. He added: "We decided to cooperate on the diplomatic level and to hold consultations between our two countries." However, he said that they did not discuss the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Yosef Tzuri'el reports that the impressions U.S. Sentator Paul Tsongas brought back from Amman coincide with the view, prevalent in east Jerusalem and the occupied territories, that King Husayn is seeking first of all to get the help of the area's Arabs and the United States when he considers joining the negotiations over political settlements with Israel.

PRESIDENT NAVON TO VISIT FRANCE SHORTLY

TA090541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] President Yitzhaq Navon will visit France shortly. Our correspondent Shalom Qital, who accompanied the presidential entourage currently in Boston, reports that the French ambassador to Washington called the president and extended the invitation on behalf of the French president. It was decided that the date for the visit will be determined at a later date. President Navon has already obtained Cabinet approval for this visit.

INQUIRY COMMISSION RELEASES STATISTICAL DATA

TA041212 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1046 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] The commission of inquiry into the Beirut refuggee camps massacre today released statistical data on the material that was submitted to it. The material requisitioned and received by the commission covers 12,000 pages, contained in 24 file folders. This material does not include press clippings collected both by the commission and the Government Press Office, in coordination with Israeli representations abroad. The members of the commission heard 49 witnesses, 9 of them twice, for a total of 58 testimonies submitted over about 65 hours and covering about 1,700 pages. Twenty-four testimonies submitted by 23 witnesses were heard in open sessions, with Lieutenant Colonel Gay testifying twice in an open session. The collectors of the material heard 160 witnesses, 17 of them twice. Eight witnesses appeared both before the commission members and the collectors. The witnesses include IDF soldiers and officers, Israeli and non-Israeli citizens, Israeli and foreign journalists, and persons who formerly held senior defense establishment positions.

During the collection of testimony, 245 exhibits and documents covering 3,000 pages were presented. The commission members, the spokesman announced, and the material collectors are continuing to examine the large amount of material that has been collected. Also, the lawyers for the witnesses who received letters of warning in accordance with Section 15 of the Commissions of Inquiry Law, and who are entitled to examine all the material possessed by the commission, come to the building daily to prepare their concluding arguments.

LIBYA

PLO'S HABASH, HAWATIMAH, LEBANESE COMMUNIST ARRIVE

LD100101 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP]; George Hawi, the secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, and their accompanying delegations have arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to a JANA reporter, Brother George Habash affirmed that he is visiting Libya to discuss with the brothers in the Jamahiriyah the circumstances through which the Arab nation, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese patriotic movement are passing and the imperialist-Zionist onslaught that is aimed at the Arab nation.

Brother George Habash said that the efforts that the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is making in this respect through his call to the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolutionary groups and the Lebanese patriotic movement groups are worthy of serious attention in order to announce a practical reply that our nation's masses are awaiting after all that happened in Lebanon.

On his part, Brother Nayif Hawatimah said that we come to the Jamahiriyah to discuss the real current conditions of the Arab nation after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. He affirmed this by saying: In the Palestinian revolution, we are resoleved along with the great Al-Fatih revolution to armed struggle and to the muster of all Arab energies to inflict a defeat on the enemies and liberate the land.

In his statement to the JANA reporter, Brother George Hawi affirmed that the visit is aimed at strengthening the struggle of the Lebanese people to expel the Zionist invaders and restore the freedom of the Lebanese people and continue the revolution of the Palestinian people in the recovering of their full rights.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA RECEIVES PLO ENVOY, UK AMBASSADOR

LD081718 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, 8 Jan (MAP) -- In Rabat today Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta received Abu Marwan, the PLO representative in Morocco. The talk between them covered the general situation in the Middle East and the development of the situation in the region.

Also today Mr Boucetta received British Ambassador in Rabat John Cambridge to discuss the forthcoming visit to London by the Arab League delegation under the chairmanship of the Moroccan monarch.

ETHIOPIA

COPWE CONGRESS ISSUES RESOLUTIONS 6 JAN

EA081750 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1735 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Resolutions passed by congress of Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia, COPWE, read by Imbibel Ayeneh, COPWE Central Committee member and chairman of documentation commission; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Organizational work, chapter on the formation of the workers party:

The congress has confirmed that we have reached the last stage in the formation of the Ethiopian workers party, namely the third stage, which is the completion of work for the formation of the party, taking into account the fact that COPWE's primary task is to divide its work into stages so as to carry out its responsibilities competently, and noting also that it has successfully completed the preparatory stage and begun official work, and the agitprop stage, on which it embarked after the first congress. [applause]

All necessary steps should be taken to bring about the participation of mass organizations in work of administration, justice, control and security, which used to be solely the task of the government, since these tasks need the participation of the masses in line with the aims of the revolution.

1. Propaganda and agitation: Members should show exemplary participation in the production and distribution of the Central Committee's organ THE WORKER and our magazine SEPTEMBER and in ensuring that their messages reach the masses and are understood by them. This was resolved after taking note of the importance of ideological work in ensuring that our revolution achieves its goals, and of the important role of propaganda and agitation in increasing the political consciousness and cultural level of members and workers and after a study of the progress made by COPWE in ideological work, the victories achieved and the weaknesses observed.

2. Members should strive to increase their general ideological and theoretical knowledge by their own initiative as well as studying the reports and programs sent to them by policymaking bodies.

3. Steps should be taken to ensure that discussion clubs engage in vigorous activities and become more effective.

4. The work of the government communication media, that is, radio, television and press, should be coordinated, planned and carried out correctly.

5. A coordinated and intensified struggle should be fought to counter and foil the reactionary ideological campaign to weaken ideological commitment in the name of freedom of worship.

Nationalities affairs:

We should speed up the necessary studies to assure the rights and equal development of all nationalities in line with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism on nationals, nationalities and societies in various development stages, noting the importance our revolution places on this issue and on the culture, unity and differences among our country's nationalities in various stages of development.

An institute of nationalities affairs that will help ensure uniform rights and development of nationalities and different societies is to be established.

In order to increase the contribution of tourism to the acquisition of capital and foreign exchange, services should be better organized. A proportional control method should be formulated to counter the social evils which might come as a result of tourism.

Even though one of the victories our revolution achieved for the broad masses was the chance to free themselves from rent exploitation and build their own houses, a policy to help alleviate housing problems should be formulated at once.

On the preparation of a national development plan: The 10-year economic development plan which should be planned to go side by side with our future march of development, should be completed as soon as possible in order to be ready for the next congress. This plan is based on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, on socialist cooperation and development and on the experience of the yearly implementation of plans over the last 5 years and aims to promote planned economic and social development in our country.

The current international situation: We should increase our contribution to the efforts of socialist countries and all forces for peace in order to thwart imperialism's dangerous, provocative and interfering policy, and we should work to increase their awareness of the dangerous situation in our region. We should do this taking into account that the usual solution of imperialists to an economic crisis is to advance a diplomacy and a policy which increases the threat of war. The working people of Ethiopia should strengthen their own defence forces, their solidarity with world socialist and antiimperialist forces and the basic contribution of COPWE, the revolutionary government and the working people at the regional and international level through foreign relations. Following our policy of peaceful coexistence we should increase cooperation and strengthen our relations with the USSR and other socialist countries for the common benefit of our people.

Defending the security of our motherland and the gains of our revolution:

1. We should ensure that the combat competence and alertness of our revolutionary Army always corresponds with the prevailing situation. We do this in line with the correct Marxist-Leninist theory of proletarian internationalism, the policy of peaceful coexistence and socialist patriotism by assessing the decisive role of the defense forces in safeguarding the territorial integrity of our revolutionary motherland and ensuring the superiority of the working class, taking into consideration the sacrifices that have been and are being made by our revolutionary Army in defending the motherland, and by assessing the conspiracies of imperialism and reactionary forces in our region, and particularly against our revolution.

2. Organizational and political activities in our revolutionary Army to increase class awareness and the feeling of socialist patriotism should be intensified and improved.

3. National military service and the formation of regional militias should be implemented immediately, because defense of the motherland is the duty of all Ethiopians.

On the date of the formation of the worker's party:

1. The formation of the workers party and completion of COPWE's work should coincide with our next congress.

2. We should coordinate and strengthen all revolutionary work.

On the party program and regulations:

1. A new party program should be formulated to replace the Ethiopian national democratic revolutionary program which was formed in line with the situation prevailing at the beginning of the revolution, because it cannot fully serve the party's aims as it now stands.

2. The congress has given directives to the Central Committee that party regulations should be drafted because the organizational methods currently being used and which were formulated in line with COPWE's mission and the prevailing situation no longer correspond with the party's work. [applause]

TANZANIA

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH PRC

EA082026 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- Tanzania and China are optimistic that the good relations between them will be further enhanced by the visit to Tanzania next week of the Chinese prime minister, Ndugu Zhao Ziyang. The Tanzania foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim today described the present relations between the two states as excellent. He said he was hopeful that Ndugu Zhao's visit would bring even more cooperation. [remainder of item indistinct]

ANGOLA

UNITA CLAIMS ON DIRECT TALKS CALLED 'ABSURD'

AB081003 Luanda ANGOP in French 0947 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Luanda, 8 Jan (ANGOP) -- The claims made by the armed bands in the service of Pretoria that direct talks will be held between the Government of the People's Republic of Angola and the leadership of the Angolan puppets scheduled for February were considered absurd in official circles in Luanda on Friday.

Although unjustified, the recent insistence on these claims and even the setting of dates reflect the disorientation of these puppets and maneuvers aimed at camouflaging their defeat following the victorious offensive launched against their bases by the Angolan Armed Forces.

BOTSWANA

VICE PRESIDENT SERETSE BURIED 8 JANUARY

MB091225 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The people of Botswana have just finished burying their vice president and minister of local government and lands, Mr Seretse, in Serowe. The funeral service, which was at Mr Seretse's house, started this morning at 0500 GMT, and was broadcast live by Radio Botswana. Mr Seretse was buried at the Masokola graveyard. The president of Botswana, Dr Quett Masire, arrived in Seruwe this morning from Gaborone to attend the funeral.

Yesterday at the state memorial service for Mr Seretse at the national stadium in Gaborone, the president, Dr Masire, told the nation that the death of Vice President Seretse is not only a pitiful bereavement for his family and relatives, but also a sad loss to the government and people of Botswana, and indeed to mankind.

NAMIBIA

SIX SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS KILLED BY LANDMINE

MB071845 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Defense Force headquarters in Pretoria has announced that six South African soldiers were killed and two seriously injured in a landmine blast in Kaokoveld in the northwestern South-West African operational area.

Prime Minister P.W. Botha; the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan; and chief of the Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen; have all expressed their deepest sympathy for the families of the eight men.

A followup operation has been launched in the area to try to track down the saboteurs responsible for the explosion. The landmine had apparently been planted on a public road used extensively by local inhabitants.

Seventh Soldier Dies

MB080638 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] One of the two soldiers who was injured in a landmine explosion in the operational area of northwestern South-West Africa has died at the military hospital at Voortrekkerhoogte, bringing to seven the number of South African soldiers who were killed by the blast.

He was Rifleman Gerald Perreira da Silva of Welkom, who died from injuries he sustained in the blast. He was the son of Mrs F. da Silva on No 1 Salona Avenue, Riebeeckstad, in Welkom.

The condition of the other soldier injured in the explosion, Rifleman Peter (Azo) of Virginia, in the Free State, is still reported to be critical.

SOUTH AFRICA

TALKS WITH ANGOLA ON NAMIBIA REPORTEDLY TO RESUME

AB090957 Paris AFP in French 1445 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Pretoria, 8 Jan (AFP) -- South Africa and Angola are to resume the talks on Namibia's future which began between the two governments on 7 and 8 December 1982 in Cape Verde, it was learned from reliable sources in Pretoria.

This meeting may take place at the same level and at same place on 28 January, according to diplomatic sources.

According to South Africa, the December talks were led by Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha on the South African side and on the Angolan side by Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues. However, Angola has never officially confirmed or denied having taken part in these talks with South Africa in Cape Verde.

The new meeting will be held at a time when Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos seems to have embarked on a purge of the "radical elements" of the regime and when Savimbi's guerrilla organization UNITA has announced a large-scale offensive against government forces, observers note.

The Praia talks held in December were prepared by U.S. Vice President George Bush with the assistance of the Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira, diplomatic sources indicate.

According to Pretoria, they were on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which Washington and South Africa considers a prerequisite prior to any settlement in Namibia. Luanda, it will be recalled, refuses to accept any link between the two issues.

DEFENSE CHIEF WARNS SWAPO ON LANDMINE EXPLOSION

MB080711 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] The chief of the South African Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen, says SWAPO can expect no mercy if it continues to perpetrate deeds of terror and violence while claiming to be interested in a peaceful settlement in South-West Africa/Namibia.

Gen Viljoen was speaking in Pretoria after announcing that eight [as heard] South African solders had been killed in a landmine explosion in northwestern South-West Africa/Namibia. He said the blast was a cowardly and desperate action which was typical of a terrorist organization like SWAPO. It should be abhored by all civilized people.

The landmine was planted on a public road used extensively by local inhabitants.

Gen Viljoen said the SWAPO terrorists responsible for the explosion had already fled back to Angola. He said Angola should take cognizance of this action and should bear the responsibility for the fact that it was committed from its territory.

The South-West Africa Territory Force headquarters in Wind hoek has since disclosed that two large caches of landmines have been unearthed in the operational area. The mines are of Soviet, British, East German, and Yugoslavian origin.

HOME OF NELSON MANDELA'S WIFE RAIDED BY POLICE

MB080837 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 8 Jan 83 p 1

[By Helene Zampetakis]

[Text] Police raided the home of Mrs Winnie Mandela in Brandfort yesterday and confiscated posters, books, documents and a bedspread during a visit by two opposition MP, Mrs Helen Suzman and Mr Peter Soal.

A family friend, Mr "M.K." Malefane, said six police vehicles arrived at Mrs Mandela's Brandfort home at 1 pm and issued her with a summons for breaking her banning order.

Security Policemen arrived in four cars followed by two cars carrying armed, uniformed police. The house was searched in shifts over a three-hour period, Mr Malefane said. Mrs Mandela was questioned about confiscated articles. Roadblocks were allegedly set up in the township as soon as police arrived in Brandfort.

The SP [Security Police] took away documents, a poster, and a bedspread which, according to Mrs Suzman, "seemed to be done up in the African National Congress -- or Inkatha -- colours.

A spokesman for the police division of public relations, in Pretoria, last night confirmed the raid.

"A case is being investigated and after completion the documents will be submitted to the attornev general. It is then up to him to make a decision whether or not to prosecute.

"If any of the people involved have a complaint concerning the behaviour of the police, I would urge them to report the matter immediately so that an investigation can be initiated.

ZAMBIA

GOVERNMENT DEVALUES CURRENCY BY 20 PERCENT

MB071433 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] The government has devalued the kwacha by 20 percent with immediate effect. This was announced by Finance Minister Kebby Musokotwane at a press conference in Lusaka today. He said measures have been taken to enable what he called [words indistinct] to the economy if Zambia is to survive. He said the government (?has suspended) the [words indistinct] on medium- and long-term foreign debts while seeking an immediate rescheduling of the payments from its creditors. Mr Musokotwane said the measures included several others taken after launching unproductive negotiations with the International Monetary Fund over the 800 million kwacha [words indistinct] extended fund facility arrangements worked out early in 1981.

Among other drastic steps taken are: an interim income and wages policy that limits salary increments for low-paid workers to 5 percent for this year. Foreign exchange allocations will be modified to enable an import license approval to match the foreign exchange cover by the Bank of Zambia. Commercial mining of processed and semi-processed stones will be opened to any licensed dealer, but the Zambian minerals corporation will be the sole buyer.